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INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL  
OF WOMEN OF 1899

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EDITED BY  
THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN  
*President*

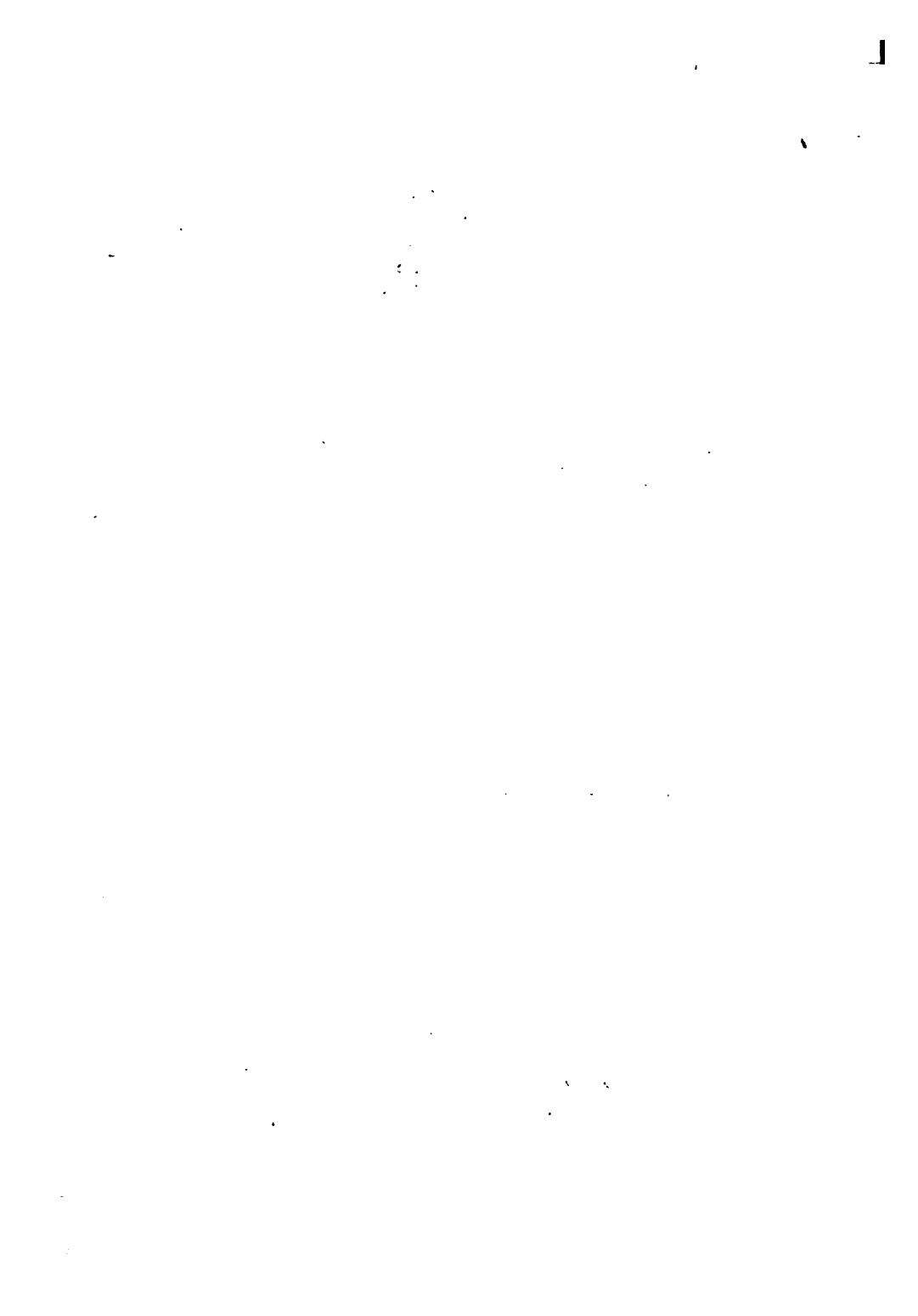






THE OFFICERS, OFFICIAL DELEGATES, AND HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

(Taken at Cassiobury Park. July 4th. 1890. by Cole. Watford.)



— COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

(Taken at Cassiobury Park, July 5th, 1899, by Cole, Watford.)

# INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

REPORT OF TRANSACTIONS

OF

**The Second Quinquennial Meeting**

HELD IN

*LONDON, JULY 1899*



WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN

*Retiring President*



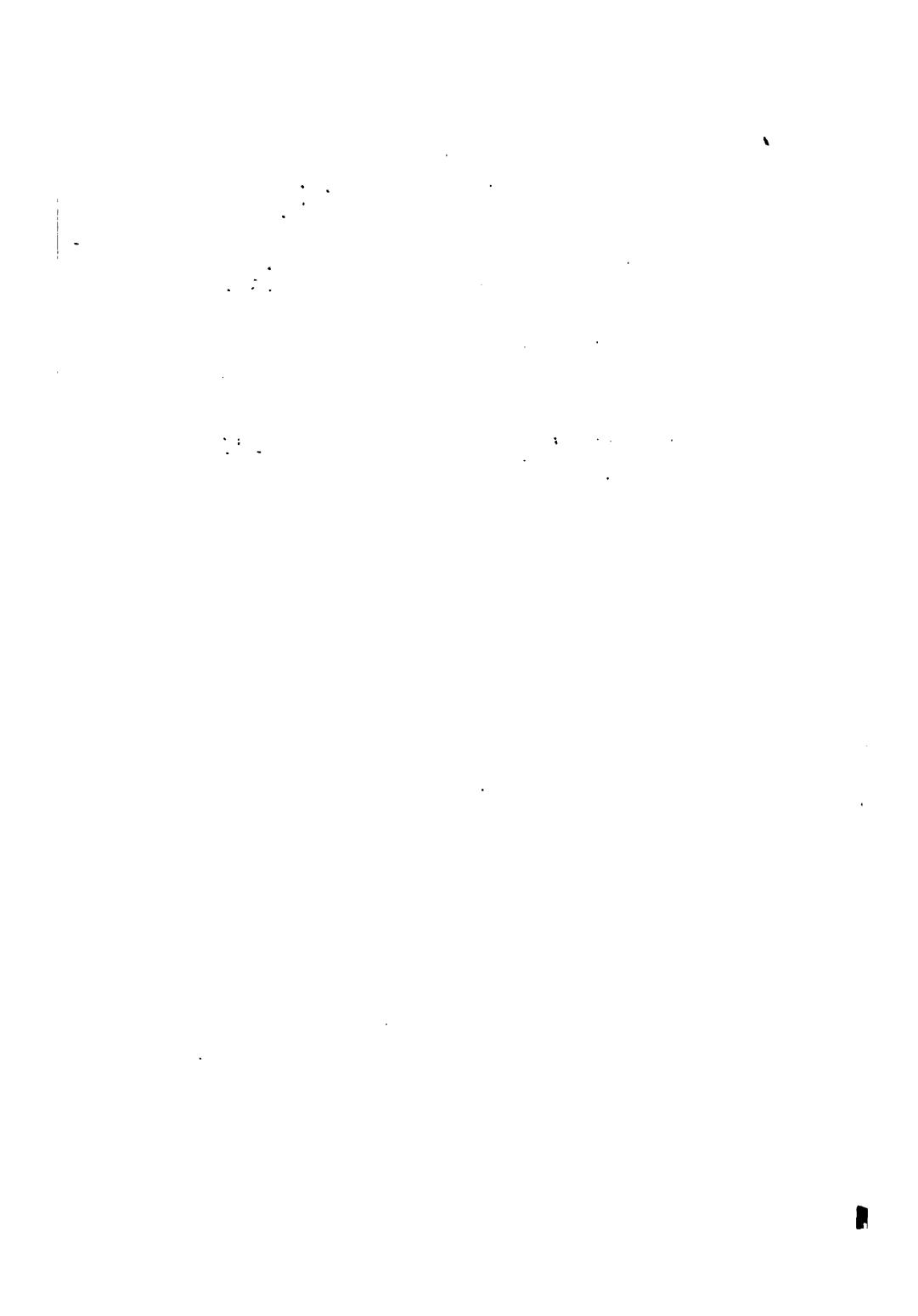
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*Note.*—Many of the portraits in this volume appeared in 'The Gentlewomen's Album of Who's Who at the International Congress,' and have been kindly lent by the Editor of that paper. Acknowledgments for similar kindness in lending plates of portraits are also made to 'The Englishwoman,' 'The Nursing Record,' 'Womanhood,' 'The Lady's Pictorial' and 'The Lady's Realm.' The remaining illustrations have been especially prepared for this volume by Messrs Carl Hentschel, Limited. The name of the photographer has been added whenever it has been known, and the Editor regrets that this has not been possible in all cases.

# International Council of Women

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## INTRODUCTION

IN sending out the official record of the Transactions of the Second Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Women, I feel it my duty, as the presiding officer of that meeting, to add a few words by way of introduction and explanation.

Our Federated National Councils and Honorary Vice-Presidents may have been surprised in not receiving a memorandum from me, summing up the results of our meeting and pointing out the special duties it has imposed on the bodies federated with it.

I have, however, thought it best to delay making any such communication until I could, at the same time, present to the Councils the official Transactions of both the Council Meeting and of the International Congress connected with it, of which Transactions I have had the honour to be appointed Editor.

And I find that now that these volumes are published and in the hands of the Council, very little remains for me to say.

The Report of the Council Meetings is taken from the steno- Reports of graphic notes of the official reporter appointed by the Committee Council Meet- of Arrangements, and no change has been made in his rendering ings. of the proceedings, save in those few cases where, in matters of detail, it did not seem quite to agree with the Minutes.

In these cases the Minutes, as approved by the Council, have been taken as the proper authority.

By arrangement with Mrs May Wright Sewall, I have added the Report of the first Executive under her presidency, by arrangement with her, since that meeting dealt with the Standing Orders, and finally adopted them according to the authority specially given to the Executive at the final meeting of the Council at Cassiobury. These Standing Orders, as adopted,

will be found at the end of the Council volume, but it will be remembered that a Committee has been appointed to re-arrange them under headings which will make them more convenient for general use. In the meantime, a number of separate copies of these Standing Orders will be forwarded to each National Council and Honorary Vice-President, according to the arrangements made by Mrs May Wright Sewall and myself.

Lists of Committees.

I have also added to the Council volume a list of the present officers of all the National Councils federated with us, and lists of the various Committees concerned with the arrangements of the recent Congress, as well as of the stewards, to whose efficiency during our meetings both the Council and the Congress owe so much.

Financial Report.

The Financial Report, so ably drawn up by Mrs Bedford Fenwick, Treasurer of the Congress Fund, and Acting Treasurer on behalf of Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg for the Committee of Arrangements, will give great satisfaction to all our members of Council, and especially to those who were anxiously concerned to see so large an undertaking, entirely officered by women, carry out its business in a business-like way.

Expenses of Arbitration Meeting.

Appended to the General Financial Report, an extra Balance-Sheet, giving an account of the receipts and expenditure in connection with the big evening meeting at the Queen's Hall, on behalf of International Arbitration, will also be found.

It is needless to say that we close these accounts with feelings of very sincere gratitude to those contributors who showed faith in us at the outset of our enterprise, and who thus enabled us to carry it forward to a successful issue.

Presidents' thanks to Fellow-workers for the Congress.

I cannot pass on from these brief allusions to the work of organisation for the Council and Congress meetings without recording my own deep appreciation of the able and hearty co-operation that I have met with from my fellow-workers; and, in particular, I would desire again officially to tender my heartfelt thanks to my fellow-officers, to the members of the Sub-Committee of Arrangements, to the Conveners of the Sectional Committees, and to the three ladies who represented our absent officers on the Committee of Arrangements, namely, Mrs Cobden Unwin, representing Mrs May Wright Sewall; Mrs Montefiore, representing Madame Martin; and Mrs Bedford Fenwick, representing the Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg,

Of Miss Teresa F. Wilson's arduous but successful work for the Council and Congress I need not again speak, as its worth has been amply proven by its results. Whilst arranging for the

Congress, she was supported by a band of willing and able helpers in her office, whom she would wish me here to recognise.

The feelings of our guests towards the many kind hosts and Hospitality hostesses who entertained them will be found recorded in an *Arrangements*. official letter of thanks in this volume. Those who organised the Congress realise that they are under a deep debt of gratitude towards those whose personal hospitality so largely contributed to its success, and to the sense of satisfaction with which our guests left our shores. Mrs Mackenzie Davidson, the indefatigable Honorary Secretary of the Hospitality Committee, has, at my request, written a Report of the Hospitality Arrangements, and I have thought that our members of Congress would like to see included in this record the portraits of those ladies who entertained us in so royal a manner at our large official entertainments. These are therefore added, as well as a brief description of these special occasions by Mrs Scaife.

I have, moreover, taken it upon myself to give our members *Portrait of the Congress* a reproduction of a recent photograph of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, whose gracious entertainment of our visiting delegates will ever be cherished by them and by every member of our Council.

I cannot leave the subject of hospitality without alluding to the great help rendered us in our arrangements for the Congress by Mrs Charles Hancock, who lent her house and organised a meeting in the spring to awaken interest in our plans, and who in many practical ways stood by us. In her house, too, the stewards met to organise themselves, and, again, the Girls' Section were glad to avail themselves of her hospitality for their first meeting.

We cannot help regretting that no more complete record exists of the Girls' Section than the very brief Report written for us by the Hon. Mrs Russell, its Convener. We regard it as one of the best of omens that we were able to associate with us the representatives of the coming generation of women workers, and we greatly rejoice that their special meetings under their own charge were so largely attended and proved so inspiring.

I would fain linger over the remembrance of the helpful kindness shown us in many quarters during those anxious weeks of preparation, but space forbids, and I would merely, in passing, acknowledge the service rendered us by the Pioneer Club and by the Women's Institute by their holding meetings for the explanation of the Congress ; by Miss Bairdsmith for organising the stewards ; by Lady Edmund Talbot and Miss Fortescue for obtain- Stewards.

ing for us the co-operation of the Catholic Social Union, with the full sanction of His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan, and by the Honorary Secretaries of the various Sectional Committees.

A list of the private entertainments and gatherings arranged for various sections of our Congress members is given as it appeared in our handbook, although this cannot be regarded as complete.

Religious Services.

Our readers will be glad to find a notice of the principal religious services held in connection with the Congress, including the impressive special service kindly arranged for us by the Dean of Westminster at Westminster Abbey, at the instance of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, with some report of the sermon preached by the Bishop of Southampton.

Press.

In all these records, the notices which appeared in the Press have been of great assistance, and the thanks of the Council are hereby tendered to the many newspapers and periodicals who dealt generously with us during our gatherings and the weeks preceding them.

Result of the Quinquennial Meeting.

My next duty would naturally be to gather up the tangible results of this Second Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council, but I feel that we are still too near it to be able to form a correct judgment regarding it. It is self-evident that it has been the means of focussing the advance made in the position and work of women all over the world during recent years. It has also brought the women workers of different countries into definite relations with one another, in a way which has never been done before.

These results must have far-reaching effects, but what these effects will be will largely depend on the reality and thoroughness of our individual National Councils, and of their loyalty to the spirit of our constitution.

Importance of National Councils being representative.

My last word as President to the Federated National Councils would be respectfully to entreat them constantly to see that the foundations of their Council work are secure, and that the building they are laying on those foundations is thorough. The great aim of the International Council must be to aid National Councils, by every means in its power, to be as *representative* as possible, and to remember the wise provision of the founders, which guards against their being led away by the natural disposition to identify themselves with some movements at the expense of others, instead of concentrating their main energy on being, first and foremost, centres round which *all* women workers of all

sections of society, of *all* religious denominations, and *all* political parties, can gather in a spirit of unity and understanding of one another. And let us remember that, in order to attain to this position, we must in every country be able to include in our Councils the women of conservative views and those who are termed old-fashioned workers, as well as those who belong to the more progressive party. We need both if we are to be able to do the work which we have set before us.

The same remarks apply to those countries where National Councils are now in process of formation. We would beg our Honorary Vice-Presidents to see to it that the Council idea is thoroughly understood before the Council is actually formed, and that the beginnings of every National Council should be so thorough and so representative as to give good promise of permanence.

I think it will be for the convenience of Councils if I here Officially remind them of the special resolutions adopted by the International Council from those sent in for their consideration by the Executive and by the National Councils, copies of which have previously been submitted to each National Council, in order that these might instruct their delegates how to vote, if they so desired :—

- “ 1. That a Headquarters Office be appointed for the International Council, and that said office be in the country in which the President lives.
- “ 2. That an International Bureau of Information concerning women's work and women's position and progress in all countries would be useful to the work of the International Council ; and that for the next quinquennial period the Information Bureau of the Women's Institute be used as such by the National Councils ; but the International Council specially desires that on all questions relating to the work of the National Councils, Councils should correspond direct with other National Councils.
- “ 3. That every National Council be recommended to form a National Standing Committee of Information, with a Bureau of Information if possible, where statistics regarding the women of the country shall be collected and kept up to date. The business of this Committee or Bureau shall be to gather together and to give accurate information regarding the position, employment, education, pursuits, etc., of the women of the country, and to collect any further information required.

Organisation  
of future  
International  
Congresses of  
Women.

“ 4. That the International Council of Women do not in future undertake the responsibility of organising International Congresses of Women, but that it do adhere to the arrangement for its own Quinquennial Meetings as set forth in its Constitution, leaving the organisation of International Congresses in the hands of National Councils who may desire to convene them. The International Council further recommends the National Council of the country where the Quinquennial Meeting is convened to organise an International Congress which shall not conflict with the meetings of the International Council.

International  
Arbitration.

“ 5. That the International Council of Women do take steps in every country to further and advance by every means in its power the movement towards International Arbitration.

International  
means of Com-  
munication  
between  
National  
Councils  
through the  
Press.

“ 6. That some efficient method of communication by means of the Press be adopted by the National Council and between the different National Councils; that a list of suitable newspapers and journals throughout the world be drawn up, and that the editors be approached, with a view to inserting items of International Council news in their papers.

Enquiry into  
the Laws con-  
cerning  
Domestic  
Relations.

“ 7. That the National Councils of all countries be asked to consider the nature of the laws concerned with the domestic relations which exist in all civilised countries.

Next Quin-  
quennial  
Meeting.

“ 8. That the next Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council be held in Berlin.”

I will add to these a resolution which was passed at the Conference organised by the International Council, and at which, after the reading of an able paper by Mr Gilbert Parker, it was resolved:—

Enquiry into  
the Housing  
of Educated  
Working  
Women in  
Large Cities.

“ That this Conference, convened by the International Council, do recommend all National Councils to inquire into the present conditions surrounding the housing of educated working women in their large cities, and to consider what can be done to place them on a better footing.”

Our National Councils and our Honorary Vice-Presidents will recognise that in the above resolutions the policy of the International Council for the next five years is indicated, and that the responsibility rests on each National Council to carry into effect this policy and the work recommended. The remainder of the work done at this Quinquennial Meeting is

embodied in the amended Constitution and Standing Orders, now fully adopted by the Council, and to which allusion has already been made.

I cannot altogether pass over in silence one decision of the Participation Council contained in the amendments made to the Constitution of Honorary Vice-Presidents and Standing Orders, which personally I regard with great regret. I refer to the rule which has been laid down whereby both the Honorary Vice-Presidents and the ordinary members of the International Council (that is, members of any National Council federated with the International) are debarred from taking part in the debates of our business sessions, except by special invitation.

I believe we are thereby depriving ourselves of much valuable assistance, and that the votes which have to be recorded by our official delegates would be based on fuller knowledge if ample opportunity were given to all members of Council to express their views and to give us the benefit of their experience.

It may also happen that the official delegates may at times be the representatives only of a majority of their own Council, and that the minority may thus be unrepresented altogether. In such cases the possibility of being able at least to express the views of the minority would be very desirable, and would give the whole body of the Council a juster conception of the opinions of the women of the country in question. It must also be remembered that greater interest would be taken in the Council's affairs if all ordinary members could take part in its proceedings.

In the case of Honorary Vice-Presidents, this regulation appears to be a still greater mistake in the interests of the Council. Most of these ladies act as our pioneers, and represent a movement in their own country which is likely in course of time to develop under their fostering care into a Council. It would seem, therefore, of the utmost importance that we should have the benefit of their counsel on points which may make a great difference to the women of those countries, and on which the very formation of their Councils may depend.

Having myself experienced the great value of representatives of countries not yet federated taking part in our International Executive Meetings during the past few years, and having also had the opportunity of seeing the benefit gained by the Canadian National Council by its ordinary Council members being permitted to contribute to its business discussions, I feel it my duty, as retiring President, to express my earnest hope that this regula-

tion may be reconsidered and modified at our next Quinquennial Meeting. I believe it to be of far greater moment to the future of the International Council than may at first appear to be the case.

As to the six volumes which contain the Transactions of the International Congress, they will speak for themselves.

I must claim the indulgence of those who did me the honour of appointing me Editor, for I have found unexpected and unusual difficulties in carrying through the work entrusted to me.

Much of the material handed over to my care was necessarily in a very imperfect state, and the writers of the papers being scattered all over the world, it was manifestly unwise to incur delay in communicating to them. Some gaps will therefore be found, which I greatly deplore, and it is with deep regret that I have found myself forced to curtail many papers which I should have wished to give in full, owing to the inexorable demands of space and money. The £300 set aside by the Committee of Arrangements for the printing of the Transactions has not proved in any way adequate to the cost of publication of these volumes. I have every hope, however, that there will be so large a sale amongst those interested in the Congress, that the risk that has been taken in producing them will be reduced to a minimum.

A number of those who joined in the Guarantee Fund for the Congress, but whose guarantee subscriptions were not called up, hearing of the position, have been good enough to add to the Printing Fund a sum of about £45. A full account of how the Printing Fund has been expended will be furnished to the Executive, and should there unfortunately be any deficit, no responsibility for such deficit will rest on the International Council.

I trust that all our National Councils will use their best endeavours to circulate this publication, and that they will urge the acquisition of a full set of these volumes by the various Societies federated with them, and by the chief Public Libraries of each country.

Let me again acknowledge with sincerest gratitude the very able literary help that I have received in the editing of these volumes, without which it would have been impossible for me to have accomplished the task that I had undertaken. Our best thanks are also due to our publisher, Mr T. Fisher Unwin, for the interest and the consideration which he has manifested in all that concerned the bringing out of this work.

In conclusion, let me express my heartfelt appreciation of the

loyal support and confidence which I have experienced during my whole term of office as President of the International Council of Women, as well as in my capacity of President of the International Congress, of which the Council was the Convener.

I realise to the full the high honour that was done me when I was elected to fill this honourable position, and also my own inexperience for the post. It is, then, with deep thankfulness that, owing to the co-operation I have received from many faithful workers, our Quinquennial Report can record a very definite advance and development of the Council idea during my Presidency, in so many countries, and that our Quinquennial Meeting should have been marked by so many tokens of public respect and confidence, and be finally crowned by the gracious reception accorded to us by the Queen.

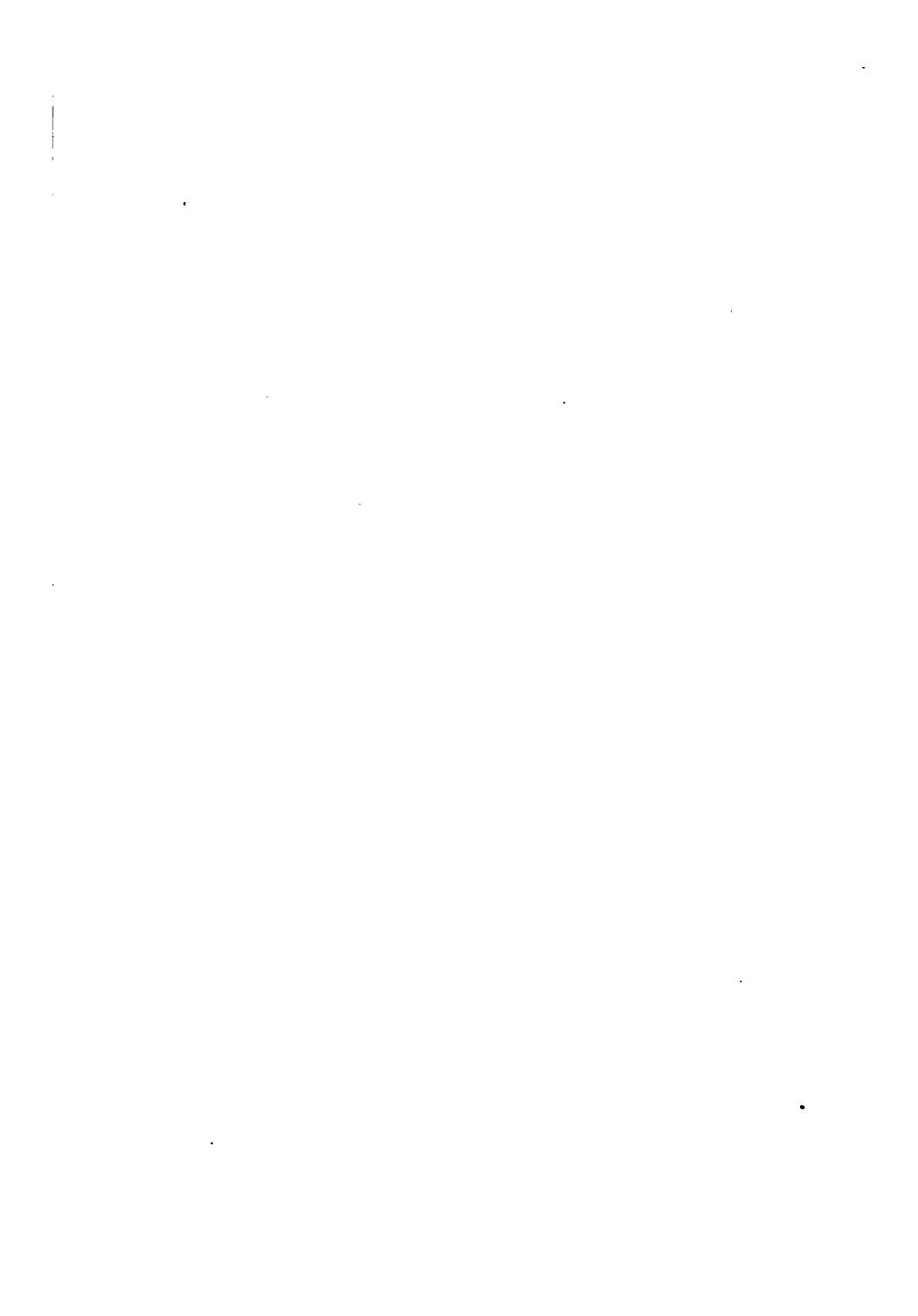
I now hand on my duties as President to one who has not only had ample experience in Council work, but who holds the proud position of being one of the mothers of our Confederation. May our cause prosper in her hands!

To hold such an office must be for the holder a rich experience, and I owe to it the formation of many friendships in many lands, which cannot pass away, because they are based on foundations which are enduring.

It is a great inspiration to be bound together in the pursuance of high ideals ; it is also a grave responsibility—and during our recent Council meeting both these thoughts have been made very real to us. I pray God that they may abide within the hearts of all who in every country are the guardians of the honour of our Council, so that it may prove true to the lofty profession it has made.

ISHBEL ABERDEEN,  
*Retiring President.*

HADDO HOUSE,  
ABERDEEN, *December 1899.*



## LIST OF OFFICERS AND OFFICIAL DELEGATES

FOR THE

QUINQUENNIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCIL OF WOMEN, JULY 1899.

### INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS.

- \* THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN, Haddo House, Aberdeen, Scotland, *President.*
- \* Mrs May Wright Sewall, Indianapolis, United States, *Vice-President.*
- \* Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg, Helsingfors, Finland, *Treasurer.*
- \* Miss Teresa F. Wilson, Members' Mansions, 254 Lisgar Street, Ottawa, Canada, *Corresponding Secretary.*
- \* Mme. Maria Martin, France, *Recording Secretary*, represented by Mme. Oddo Deflou.

### DELEGATES.

#### (a) Accredited Delegates from Federated National Councils.

UNITED STATES.—\* Mrs Fannie Humphreys Gaffney, *President*; Miss Susan B. Anthony, *Delegate*; Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, *Delegate*.

CANADA.—\* Mrs Boomer, to represent the *President*; Mrs Willoughby Cummings, *Delegate*; Mrs Gibbs, *Delegate*.

GERMANY.—\* Frau Anna Simson, to represent the *President* ; Frau Bieber Boehm, *Delegate* ; Frau Marie Stritt, *Delegate*.

SWEDEN.—\* Fru Hierta-Retzius, *President* ; Fröken Gertrud Adelborg, *Delegate* ; Fröken Ellen Whitlock, *Delegate*.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—The Lady Battersea, to represent the *President* ; Lady Laura Riddig, *Delegate* ; Mrs Creighton, *Delegate*.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—\* The Vicountess Hampden, *President* ; Mrs D. E. Armitage, *Delegate* ; Mrs Dixson, *Delegate*.

DENMARK.—\* Fröken Henrie Forchammer, to represent the *President* ; Fru Charlotte Norrie, *Delegate* ; Fröken Wilhelmina Rerup, *Delegate*.

HOLLAND.—\* Mme. Klerck van Hogendorp, *President* ; Mme. Rutgers-Hoitsema, *Delegate* ; Miss Martina Kramers, *Delegate*.

NEW ZEALAND.—\* Mrs Pember Reeves, to represent the *President* ; Mrs Sidney Webb, *Delegate* ; Mrs M'Cosh Clarke, *Delegate*.

TASMANIA.—Lady Hamilton, to represent the *President* ; Mrs Dobson, *Delegate*.

*(b) Patrons who may be present without a vote.*

Mr James Neilson Hamilton, American Consul for Persia ; Mrs Eliza D. Hendricks, United States.

*(c) Hon. Vice-Presidents and Hon. Representatives from Countries where there are no National Councils (present without a vote).*

FRANCE.—Mme. Bogelot, *Hon. Vice-President* ; Mlle. Sarah Monod, *Hon. Representative*.

SWITZERLAND.—Mlle. Camille Vidart, *Hon. Vice-President*.

BELGIUM.—Mlle. Marie Popelin, Dr en Droit, *Hon. Vice-President*.

ITALY.—Mrs Crawshay, to represent the *President* ; Signora Lodi, *Hon. Representative*.

RUSSIA.—H. E. Mme. Anne de Philosofoff, *Hon. Vice-President*, represented by Dr Kosakevitch-Stephanofskia ; Mme. Boubnoff, *Hon. Representative*.

AUSTRIA.—Frau Marianne Hainisch, *Hon. Vice-President* ; Baroness Dr Gabrielle von Possanner, *Hon. Representative*.

\* Those whose names are marked with an asterisk are members of the Executive Committee.

NORWAY.—Fröken Gina Krog, *Hon. Vice-President*.  
ICELAND.—Fröken Siefansson, *Hon. Representative*.  
VICTORIA.—Janet, Lady Clarke, *Hon. Vice-President*.  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Mrs Cockburn, *Hon. Vice-President* ;  
Mrs Gawler, *Hon. Representative*.  
WEST AUSTRALIA.—Mrs Wittenoom, *Hon. Vice-President*.  
QUEENSLAND.—Mrs Fisher, *Hon. Representative*.  
CAPE COLONY.—Mrs Stewart of Lovedale, Cape Colony, *Hon. Vice-President* ; Mrs Nixon, *Hon. Representative*.  
INDIA.—Mrs Flora Annie Steel, *Acting Vice-President* ; Miss Mary Bhor, *Hon. Representative*.  
PERSIA.—Mrs Neilson Hamilton, *Hon. Vice-President*.  
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Dr Cecilia Grierson, *Hon. Vice-President*.  
CHINA.—Mme. Shen, *Hon. Vice-President*.  
PALESTINE.—Mme. v. Finkelstein Mountford, *Hon. Vice-President*.

(d) *Fraternal Representatives from Societies internationally organised (present without a vote)*.

Bureau International Permanent de la Paix—Miss Ellen Robinson, *Fraternal Representative*.  
Fédération Abolitionniste Générale—Mme. de Tscharner de Watteville, *Fraternal Representative*.  
General Federation of Women's Clubs—Mrs William B. Lowe, *Fraternal Representative*.  
Union Internationale des Amis des Jeunes Filles—Miss Manning, *Fraternal Representative*.  
World's Women's Christian Temperance Union—Miss Agnes Slack, *Fraternal Representative*.  
World's Young Women's Christian Association—Hon. Mrs Tritton, *Fraternal Representative*.  
International Union of Press Clubs—Mrs Cynthia Westover Alden, *Fraternal Representative*.  
International Order of King's Daughters—

## TIME TABLE.

MONDAY, 26TH JUNE.	TUESDAY, 27TH JUNE.	WEDNESDAY, 28TH JUNE.
10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
<p>COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</p> <p>Meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Women.</p>	<p>LARGE HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</p> <p>The Child : Life and Training.</p> <p>COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</p> <p>Professions open to Women.</p> <p>GREAT HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</p> <p>Parliamentary Enfranchisement of Women.</p> <p>SMALL HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</p> <p>Special Labour Legislation for Women.</p> <p>CONVOCATION HALL OF CHURCH HOUSE.</p> <p>Prisons and Reformatory.</p>	<p>LARGE HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</p> <p>School.</p> <p>WESTMINSTER COUNCIL CHAMBER.</p> <p>Business Session of the International Council.</p> <p>SMALL HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</p> <p>Women Inspectors.</p> <p>GREAT HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</p> <p>Literature.</p> <p>SMALL HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</p> <p>Special Labour Legislation for Children.</p> <p>CONVOCATION HALL OF CHURCH HOUSE.</p> <p>Rescue Work.</p>
2.30 to 4.30 p.m.	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
<p>LARGE HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</p> <p>Public Meeting of Welcome to the Delegates of the International Council of Women.</p>	<p>LARGE HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</p> <p>The Child : Life and Training.</p> <p>COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</p> <p>Medical Women.</p>	<p>LARGE HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</p> <p>School.</p> <p>GREAT HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</p> <p>Scientific Treatment of Domestic Service.</p>

2.30 to 4.30 p.m.	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
<p><b>LARGE HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</b> Public Meeting of Welcome—<i>continued.</i></p> <p><i>Members of Congress are cordially invited to attend.</i></p>	<p><b>GREAT HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> Special Labour Legislation for Women.</p> <p><b>SMALL HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> Art.</p> <p><b>CONVOCATION HALL OF CHURCH HOUSE.</b> Preventive Work.</p>	<p><b>SMALL HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> Responsibilities and Duties of Women in Public Life.</p> <p><b>CONVOCATION HALL OF CHURCH HOUSE.</b> Treatment of Destitute Classes.</p> <p><b>125 QUEEN'S GATE.</b> Girls' Meeting.</p>
9 p.m.	8 p.m.	9.30 to 12. p.m.
<p><b>STAFFORD HOUSE.</b> Official Reception to meet the Delegates and Invited Speakers.</p>	<p><b>QUEEN'S HALL.</b> Public Meeting. International Arbitration.</p>	<p><b>SURREY HOUSE.</b> The Lady Battersea's Reception to Delegates and Invited Speakers.</p>
<b>THURSDAY, 29TH JUNE.</b>	<b>FRIDAY, 30TH JUNE.</b>	<b>SATURDAY, 1ST JULY.</b>
10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	10.30 a.m. to 1. p.m.	10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
<p><b>LARGE HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</b> Universities.</p> <p><b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</b> Business Session of International Council.</p> <p><b>SMALL HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</b> Science.</p>	<p><b>LARGE HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</b> Technical Education.</p> <p><b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</b> Nursing.</p> <p><b>GREAT HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> Administrative Work.</p>	<p><b>LARGE HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</b> Co-education.</p> <p><b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</b> Music.</p> <p><b>SMALL HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</b> Clerical Workers.</p>

THURSDAY, 29TH JUNE.	FRIDAY, 30TH JUNE.	SATURDAY, 1ST JULY.
10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
<p><b>GREAT HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> Women's Status in Local Government.</p> <p><b>SMALL HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> Civil Disabilities of Women.</p> <p><b>CONVOCATION HALL OF CHURCH HOUSE.</b> Clubs.</p>	<p><b>SMALL HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> Trade Unionism.</p> <p><b>CONVOCATION HALL OF CHURCH HOUSE.</b> Social Necessity for an Equal Moral Standard for Men and Women.</p>	<p><b>GREAT HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> International Conference—Organisation as a Factor in Social Development, etc.</p> <p><b>SMALL HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> Co-operation.</p> <p><b>CONVOCATION HALL OF CHURCH HOUSE.</b> Provident Schemes.</p>
2.30 to 4.30 p.m.	2.30 to 4.30 p.m.	4.30 to 7 p.m.
<p><b>LARGE HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</b> Modern Educational Experiments.</p> <p><b>GREAT HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> The Drama.</p> <p><b>SMALL HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> The Home as Workshop.</p> <p><b>CONVOCATION HALL OF CHURCH HOUSE.</b> Social Settlements.</p>	<p><b>LARGE HALL, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</b> Women as Educators.</p> <p><b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.</b> Nursing.</p> <p><b>GREAT HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> Administrative Work.</p> <p><b>SMALL HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.</b> Journalism.</p> <p><b>CONVOCATION HALL OF CHURCH HOUSE.</b> Amusements.</p>	<p><b>FULHAM PALACE.</b> Garden Party by the invitation of the Lord Bishop of London and Mrs Creighton.</p>

8 p.m.	8 p.m.	
QUEEN'S HALL. Public Meeting on Women's Suffrage.  <i>(Under the auspices of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.)</i>	LARGE HALL, WEST- MINSTER TOWN HALL. Ethics of Wage Earning.  GREAT HALL, ST MAR- TIN'S TOWN HALL. Temperance.	
MONDAY, 3RD JULY.	TUESDAY, 4TH JULY.	WEDNESDAY, 5TH JULY,
10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	11 a.m to 2 p.m.
LARGE HALL, WEST- MINSTER TOWN HALL. Training of Teachers.  COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.  Agriculture.  SMALL HALL, WEST- MINSTER TOWN HALL. Protection of Young Travellers.  CONVOCATION HALL OF CHURCH HOUSE.  Emigration.	LARGE HALL, WEST- MINSTER TOWN HALL, Business Session of In- ternational Council.  COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.  Handicrafts.  SMALL HALL, WEST- MINSTER TOWN HALL. Women Librarians.	CASSIOBURY PARK. Final Session of the In- ternational Council of Women, after which the International Dele- gates will be enter- tained at luncheon by the retiring President at Cassiobury Park, Watford, by kind per- mission of the Right Hon. Sir Matthew White Ridley.
2 to 3.30 p.m.	4.30 p.m.	
LARGE HALL, WEST- MINSTER TOWN HALL. Examinations and Ex- amination Systems.	GUNNERSBURY PARK. Garden Party by the invitation of the Lady Rothschild and Mrs Leopold de Roths- child.	

2.30 to 4.30 p.m.	9 p.m.	
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL. Horticulture.	Farewell Social Gathering, given by the Countess of Aberdeen, the retiring President of the International Council, at the Royal Institution of Painters in Water Colours, Piccadilly.	
6 to 7.30 p.m.		
CONVOCATION HALL OF CHURCH HOUSE. Protection of Bird and Animal Life.		

#### SUB-COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

Countess of Aberdeen, Haddo House, Aberdeen, *President* ; Mrs May Wright Sewall, *Vice-President*, represented by Mrs Cobden Unwin ; Mrs Stanton Blatch, The Mount, Basingstoke ; Baroness A. Gripenberg, *Treasurer*, represented by Mrs Bedford Fenwick ; Mrs Bedford Fenwick, 20 Upper Wimpole Street, W. ; Miss Teresa F. Wilson, *Corresponding Secretary* ; Mme. Maria Martin, 31 Rue Francoeur, Paris, *Recording Secretary*, represented by Mrs Montefiore ; Mrs Montefiore, 63 Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, S.W. ; Mrs Alfred Booth, 46 Ullet Road, Liverpool ; The Lady Battersea, Surrey House, Marble Arch, W. ; Mrs Percy Bunting, 11 Endsleigh Gardens, N.W. ; Mrs Creighton, Fulham Palace, S.W. ; Mrs Rawlinson, Ballindune, Camberley ; The Lady Laura Riddings, Thurgarton Priory, Southwell, Notts ; Miss Maynard, Westfield College, Hampstead, N.W. ; Miss Liddett, 40 Gordon Square, W.C. ; Mrs J. R. Macdonald, 3 Lincoln's Inn

Fields, W.C. ; Mrs Benson, Treemaines, Hosted Keynes, Sussex ; Lady Roberts-Austen, The Royal Mint, Tower Hill, E. ; Miss M. Bateson, 4 Vernon Chambers, Theobald's Road, W.C. ; Miss Janes, 31 Tanza Road, Hampstead, N.W. ; Mrs Broadley Reid, 70 West Cromwell Road, S.W. ; Mrs Mackenzie Davidson, 76 Portland Place, W.

#### SECTIONAL SUB-COMMITTEES

(OF WHICH THE OFFICERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL WERE  
MEMBERS EX-OFFICIO).

**FINANCE.**—Mrs Booth, 46 Ullet Road, Sefton Park, Liverpool, *Convenor* ; Miss M. Breay, 46 York Street, W., *Hon. Secretary* ; Mrs Bedford Fenwick, *Hon. Treasurer*, *International Congress Fund* ; Mrs George Cadbury, The Manor House, Northfield ; Mrs Charles McLaren, 43 Belgrave Square, W. ; Lady Montagu, 12 Kensington Palace Gardens, W. ; Lady Roberts-Austen, The Royal Mint, Tower Hill, E. ; Lady Westbury, 134 Cromwell Road, S.W.

**HOSPITALITY.**—Lady Roberts-Austen, The Royal Mint, Tower Hill, E., *Convenor* ; Mrs Mackenzie-Davidson, 76 Portland Place, W., *Hon. Secretary* ; Lady Ashton, Alford House, Princes Gate, S.W. ; Mrs Ashton Jonson (Sesame Club), 3B Morpeth Terrace, Victoria Street, S.E. ; Mrs Bridges Adams, Hughenden, Coleraine Road, Westcombe Park, S.E. ; Lady Battersea, Surrey House, Marble Arch, W. ; Miss Bairdsmith, 81 Lexham Gardens, S.W. ; Miss Denny (Y.W.C.A.), Kingsholme, Redhill ; Miss Florence Eves, 90 Shepherdess Walk, City Road, N. ; Miss Fortescue, St Antony's, 17 Great Prescot Street, E. ; Lady Hamilton (Pioneer Club), 5 Grafton Street, W. ; Mrs Charles Hancock, 125 Queen's Gate, S.W. ; Miss Howard (Grey Ladies), Blackheath Hill, S.E. ; Mrs Huntington, The Clock House, 8 Chelsea Embankment ; Miss Janes (N.U.W.W.), 59 Berners Street, Oxford Street, W. ; Miss Johnston (New Victorian Club), 30A Sackville Street, W. ; Lady Joicey, 58 Cadogan Square ; Mrs Lough, 29 Hyde Park Gate, S.W. ; Miss E. Kerr (Somerville Club), 19A Hanover Square, W. ; Lady Knightley of Fawsley (G.F.S.), Fawsley Park, Daventry ; Mrs Martindale, Church House, Lancaster Road, Brighton ; Mrs Massingham, 34 Grosvenor Road, S.W. ; Mrs C. Mitchell, 41 Upper Addison Gardens, Kensington, W. ; Miss C. Rivington (W. University Club), 44 Connaught Square, Hyde

Park, W. ; Miss F. Routledge (Writers' Club), 22 St Thomas's Mansions, Westminster Bridge, S.E. ; Mrs Charles Schwann, 4 Princes Gardens, S.W. ; Miss Emmeline Sieveking (Gros. Cres. Club), 17 Manchester Square, W. ; Mrs Horace Seymour, The Royal Mint, Tower Hill, E. ; Miss Simmons, Bermondsey Settlement, S.E. ; Lady Stevenson, 5 Ennismore Gardens, S.W. ; Mrs Stevenson, 5 Ennismore Gardens, S.W. ; Mrs James Stuart, 24 Grosvenor Gardens, S.W. ; Miss Spicer, Montclair, Woodford Green, Essex ; Duchess of Sutherland, Stafford House ; Miss K. M. Townend, Alverley, Park Hill Rise, Croydon, S.W. ; Mrs Alec Tweedie, 30 York Terrace, Harley Street, W. ; The Lady Edmund Talbot, St Cecilia's House, Albert Square, Commercial Road.

PRESS.—Miss M. Bateson, 4 Vernon Chambers, Theobald's Road, W.C., *Convenor* ; Miss G. Ireland Blackburne (Alexandra Club), Grosvenor Street, *Hon. Secretary* ; Miss Lynette Mitchell, 28 Cornwall Gardens, S.W., *Assistant Secretary* ; Mrs Belloc Lowndes, 11 Great College Street, Westminster, S.W. ; Miss Billington, 17 Doughty Street, Russell Square, W.C. ; Miss Helen Blackburn, 18 Greycoat Gardens, Westminster, S.W. ; Miss Amy Bulley, *Manchester Guardian*, 26 Charing Cross, S.W. ; Miss Susan Carpenter, 3 Dorset Street, Portman Square, W. ; Miss Alice Corkran, 45 Mecklenburg Square, W.C. ; Miss C. Drew (W. Press Ass.), 35 Hastings House, Norfolk Street, Strand ; Miss Marianne Farningham, Office of *Christian World*, 13 and 14 Fleet Street, E.C. ; Mrs Bedford Fenwick, *Nursing Record*, 20 Upper Wimpole Street, W. ; Mrs Fenwick Miller, St Leonard's, Chart Road, Reigate ; Miss Friedrichs, *Westminster Budget*, Tudor Street, Blackfriars, E.C. ; Mrs Bakewell Green, 22 Ridway Place, Wimbledon ; Mrs Greenwood, 37 Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, S.W. ; Mrs Will Hawksley, Church Lodge, Portsmouth ; Mrs Humphrey, 42 Blomfield Road, Maida Vale ; Miss Jastrow, 31 Tanza Road, Hampstead, N.W. ; Mrs Jack Johnson, Pomfret House, Sunbury-on-Thames ; Mrs J. R. Macdonald, 3 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. ; Miss Maguire, 7 Harcourt Terrace, Dublin ; Miss March Phillipps, 6 Stafford Mansions, Albert Bridge Road, S.W. ; Miss Maule (Hospital) Altair, Ealing ; Miss Ida Mellor, 6 Upper Cheyne Row, Chelsea, S.W. ; Miss Mitford, 52 Lower Sloane Street, S.W. ; Miss Honnor Morten, Ivy Hall, Richmond, Surrey ; Mrs Naylor, *Daily Chronicle* Office, 12 Salisbury Court, Fleet Street, E. ; Miss Smallwood (Writers' Club), 10 Norfolk Street, Strand ; Miss Jane Stoddart, *British Weekly*, 27 Paternoster Row, E.C. ;

Miss Alice Stronach (Writers' Club), 10 Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C. ; Miss Strutt-Cavell, *Gentlewoman* Office, Arundel Street, W.C. ; Mrs Alex Tweedie, 30 York Terrace, Harley Street, W. ; Mrs Whitley, 173 Sumatra Road, W. Hampstead, N.W. ; Mrs Williamson, *Daily Mail* Office, 32 Carmelite Street, Temple, E.C.

**LITERATURE.**—Mrs Broadley Reid, 70 West Cromwell Road, S.W., *Convener* ; Miss Isabel Marshall, 25 Duppas Hill Terrace, Croydon, *Hon. Secretary* ; Mrs Booth, 46 Ullet Road, Liverpool ; Mrs F. G. Hogg, 60 Bedford Gardens, W. ; Miss Jones, 59 Berners Street, W. ; Mrs Arthur Scaife, 5 Trevanion Road, West Kensington ; Mrs Wynford Phillipps, 5 South Eaton Place, S.W.

**EDUCATION.**—Miss Maynard, Westfield College, Hampstead, N.W., *Convener* ; Miss C. S. Bremner, 16 Milton Chambers, Cheyne Walk, S., *Hon. Secretary* ; Mme. Bergman-Osterberg, Kingfield, Dartford Heath, Kent ; Mrs Bryant, D.Sc., N. London Collegiate School, Sandall Road, Camden Road, N.W. ; Mrs Burgwin, 21 Claylands Road, Clapham Common, S.W. ; Miss F. L. Calder, 49 Canning Street, Liverpool ; Miss A. G. Cooper, Teachers' Guild, 74 Gower Street, W.C. ; Miss A. J. Cooper, 23 Woodstock Road, Oxford ; Miss M. A. Eve, 107 Lansdowne Road, Notting Hill, W. ; Lady Evans, Nash Mills, Hemel Hempstead ; Miss Mary Gurney, 69 Ennismore Gardens, S.W. ; Miss Jones, Notting Hill High School, Norland Square, W. ; Miss Maitland, Somerville College, Oxon ; Miss Penrose, Royal Holloway College, Egham, Surrey ; Miss Ella Pycroft, 51 Camden Hill Square, W. ; Mrs Walter Ward, 39 Ladbroke Grove, Kensington Park Road, N.W. ; Miss Wordsworth, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

**PROFESSIONAL.**—Mrs Bedford Fenwick, 20 Upper Wimpole Street, W., *Convener* ; Miss Breay, 46 York Street, W., *Hon. Secretary* ; Mrs Ayrton, 41 Kensington Park Gardens, W. ; Mrs Beerbohm Tree, 77 Sloane Street, S.W. ; Mme. Canziani, 3 Kensington Palace Green, Kensington, W. ; Mrs Dickenson Berry, 60 Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square, W. ; Mrs Greenwood, 37 Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, S.W. ; Miss Barbara Hamley, 17 Chester Terrace, S.W. ; Miss Hurlbatt, Bedford College, Baker Street, W. ; Miss Huxley, matron, Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin ; Mrs Kendal, 12 Portland Place, W. ; Mrs Fenwick Miller, St Leonard's, Chart Road, Reigate ; Mrs M'Killop, 25 Primrose Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W. ; Miss O'Conor Eccles (Writers' Club), 10 Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C. ;

Mrs Phillimore, Cobden Hall, Radleth, Herts; Mrs Scharlieb, M.D., B.S., 149 Harley Street, W.; Miss Louisa Stevenson, 13 Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh; Miss Isla Stewart, St Bartholomew's Hospital, S.W.; Mme. Antoinette Sterling, 25 Ashley Gardens, Victoria Street, S.W.; Mrs Alec Tweedie, 30 York Terrace, Harley Street, W.; Miss Genevieve Ward, 22 Avenue Road, N.W.; Miss Wilkinson, 6 Gower Street, W.C.; Miss Alice Woods, 3 North Mansions, Burton Road, Kilburn, N.W.

**LEGISLATIVE AND INDUSTRIAL.**—Mrs J. R. Macdonald, 3 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., *Convenor*; Mrs B. Walter-Boxall, 13 Argyle Square, W.C., *Hon. Secretary*; Miss Rosa Barrett, 6 De Vesci Terrace, Kingstown, Co. Dublin; Miss Clementina Black, 19 South End, Croydon, S.W.; Mrs Stanton Blatch, The Mount, Basingstoke; Mrs H. P. Boulnois, 44 Campden House Road, W.; Miss Jane Hume Clapperton, 35 Drummond Place, Edinburgh; Mrs Deans, 26 Chestnut Road, Plumstead, S.E.; Miss J. M. Gray, 6 Becherton Street, Islington, N.; Mrs Amie Hicks, 3 Wilmot Place, Camden Town, N.W.; Mrs F. G. Hogg, 60 Bedford Gardens, W.; Miss Irwin, Industrial Council, Glasgow; Mrs Charles M'Laren, 45 Harrington Gardens, W.; Mrs Reeves, 41 Campden House Road, Kensington, W.; Miss Dorothea Roberts, Berry Hill Hall, Mansfield, Notts; Mrs James Stuart, 24 Grosvenor Road, Westminster Embankment; Mrs Sidney Webb, 41 Grosvenor Road, Westminster Embankment.

**POLITICAL.**—Miss Liddett, 40 Gordon Square, W.C., *Convenor*; Miss Violet Brooke-Hunt, 45 Albert Gate, S.W., *Hon. Secretary*; Mrs Sydney Buxton, 15 Eaton Place, S.W.; Mrs Eva M'Laren, 56 Ashley Gardens, S.W.; Mrs Morgan-Browne, 9 Blakesley Avenue, Ealing; Mrs R. Phillimore, Cobden Hill, Radlett, Herts; Mrs A. S. H. Richardson, 61 Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, Westminster; Mrs Reeves, 41 Campden House Road, Kensington, W.; Lady Roberts-Austen, The Royal Mint, Tower Hill, E.; Hon. Mrs Bertrand Russell, The Millhanger, Fernhurst, Haslemere; Mrs Sheldon Amos, 14 Grosvenor Road, S.W.; Lady Trevelyan, Cambo, Northumberland; Lady Westbury, 134 Cromwell Road, S.W.

**SOCIAL.**—Mrs Benson, 5 Barten Street, Westminster, *Convenor*; Miss Janes, 59 Berners Street, Oxford Street, W., *Hon. Secretary*; Lady Battersea, Surrey House, Marble Arch, W.; Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, 26 Hertford Street, W.; Mrs Bunting, 11 Endsleigh Gardens, N.W.; Mrs Creighton, Fulham

Palace, S.W. ; Miss Lidgett, 40 Gordon Square, W.C. ; Hon. Sarah Lyttelton, The Chantry, Ross, Herefordshire ; Mrs Rawlinson, Ballindune, Camberley.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.—The Countess of Aberdeen, Convener ; Miss Constance Hargrove, 169 Queen's Gate, Hon. Secretary ; Mrs Bradlaugh Bonner, 23 Strathbourne Road, Upper Tooting, S.W. ; Miss Bunney, W.L.F., 23 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W. ; Miss Julia Cameron, 7 Kensington Studios, Stamford Road, S.W. ; Mr W. R. Cremer, International Arbitration League, 11 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. ; Miss L. M. Cooke, 24 Allfarthing Lane, Wandsworth, S.W. ; Dr W. Evans Darby, Peace Society, 47 New Broad Street, E.C. ; J. Frederick Green, Esq., 40 Outer Temple, Strand, W.C. ; Mrs Corrie Grant, 26 The Avenue, Bedford Park, Chiswick ; Mr William Hill, care of *Westminster Gazette* Office, Tudor Street ; Miss M. Mills, 7 Beacon Hill, N. ; Mr G. H. Perris, Lucien Road, Tooting, S.W. ; Miss R. Richardson, Westfield College, Hampstead ; The Countess Schack, 20 Greenhill Road, Harlesden, N.W. ; Miss Stead, 43 Rosella Road, Balham, S.W. ; The Dowager Lady Westbury, 134 Cromwell Road, S.W.

#### STEWARDS FOR WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.

Miss Bairdsmith, 81 Lexham Gardens, S.W., *Chief Steward* ; Miss Maud Abbot, 98 Oakley Street, Chelsea, S.W. ; Miss Eva Bagram, 47 Holland Park, W. ; Miss Alice Bellin, 17 Regent's Park Road, N.W. ; Miss Lucy Browne (New County Club), 21 Hanover Square, W. ; Miss Louie Blakeney, 78 West Cromwell Road, S.W. ; Miss Daisy Bradish, 12 Queensborough Terrace, W. ; Mrs Collis, 17 Hamlet Gardens, Ravenscourt Park, W. ; Miss Cowie, 33 Holland Park Road ; Miss Alice Cowan, 34 Walpole Street, Chelsea, S.W. ; Miss Constance Cowan, 34 Walpole Street, Chelsea, S.W. ; Miss Lily Cowan, 34 Walpole Street, Chelsea, S.W. ; Mrs Colenso, 91 Cromwell Road, S.W. ; Miss E. Chick, University College, W.C. ; Miss H. Clarke, University College, W.C. ; Miss d'Almeida, Watch Bell House, Rye ; Miss Dunington, University College, W.C. ; Miss Emerson, 36 Nevern Square, S.W. ; Miss Fergusson, 6 Campden House Road, W. ; Miss Glyn, 1 Inkerman Terrace, Kensington, W. ; Mrs Golby, 7 Playfair Mansions, Queen's Club Gardens, W. Kensington, W. ; Miss Harrison, 6 Radnor Place, Hyde Park, W. ; Miss Elsie Hooper, 52 Clapton Common, N. ; Miss Eva Hooper, 52 Clapton Common, N. ; Miss Hardcastle, 11 Clyde Street, S.W. ; Miss

Hutchinson, Beaufort House, Duppas Hill, Croydon ; Miss Sybyl Innes, 9 Lexham Gardens, W. ; Miss Lilian Jones, 5 Ladbroke Terrace, Notting Hill, W. ; Miss Keir, 16 Evelyn Gardens, S.W. ; Miss Kelly, University College, W.C. ; Miss M. A. Lewenz, University College, W.C. ; Miss Mallet, 3 Eaton Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W. ; Miss G. Mallet, 3 Eaton Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W. ; Miss Helen Fenwick Miller, St Leonard's, Chart Road, Reigate ; Miss Irene Fenwick Miller, St Leonard's, Chart Road, Reigate ; Miss Morse, 18 Carlyle Mansions, Chelsea, S.W. ; Miss H. Morse, 18 Carlyle Mansions, Chelsea, S.W. ; Mrs Roscoe Mullins, 24 Greville Road, N.W. ; Miss Mullins, 13 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W. ; Mrs Gregory-Nicholson, 60 Linthorpe Road, Stamford Hill, N.W. ; Miss Violet Oakley, The Orphanage, Bany Road, Peckham, S.E. ; Miss M. Lindsay Oliver, 6 Sinclair Mansions, Uxbridge Road, W. ; Miss Lilian Parkes, 10 Berkeley Gardens, Campden Hill, W. ; Miss Roberts, Vernon House, 25 Wharton Street, W.C. ; Miss C. B. Richardson, 9 Cranbourne Court, Battersea Park, S.W. ; Miss Bertha Sedgwick, 18 Coleherne Road, S.W. ; Miss Alice Sedgwick, 18 Coleherne Road, S.W. ; Miss Alice Shand, Parkholme, Elm Park Gardens, S.W. ; Miss Stuart, 98 Oakley Street, Chelsea, S.W. ; Miss Schulhof, 76 Palace Gardens Terrace, W. ; Miss Edith Schulhof, 76 Palace Gardens Terrace, W. ; Mrs Schwann, Merton Cottage, Merton, Surrey ; Miss Gladys Salis-Schwabe, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, S.W. ; Miss Seeley, 25 Palace Gardens Terrace, W. ; Miss Anna Teodora, 37 S. Luke's Road, W. ; Mrs Vincent, 9 Stanhope Terrace, Hyde Park, W. ; Miss Winthrop, 82 Cromwell Road, S.W. ; Mrs Ward Young, 60 Linthorpe Road, Stamford Hill, N. ; Miss Marion Russell, Artillery Mansions, Westminster, S.W. ; Miss E. G. Harris, Artillery Mansions, Westminster, S.W. ; Miss E. Bairdsmith, 81 Lexham Gardens, Kensington, W. ; Mrs Andrew, Cathcart House, Cathcart Road, S.W. ; Mrs Galton, 36 Thurloe Square, South Kensington ; Miss Harrison, 24 Redcliffe Gardens, S.W. ; Mrs Stanhope-Jones, 8 Palace Mansions, Buckingham Gate ; Mrs Randolph, 13 South Street, Thurloe Square ; Miss Fryer-Smith, St Cecilia's, 10 Albert Square, Stepney.

#### STEWARDS FOR CONVOCATION HOUSE.

Miss Fortescue, St Antony's, 17 Great Prescot Street, *Head Steward* ; Miss Davies-Cooke, 64 Princes Gate ; Miss G. Browne, St Antony's, 17 Great Prescot Street, E. ; Miss G. Burke, 18

Colville Square, Bayswater ; Mrs Borner, 17a Bayswater Terrace, W. ; Miss Broder, 9 John Street, Mayfair ; Miss T. Bagshawe, 249 Cromwell Road, S.W. ; Miss U. Bagshawe, St Cecilia's, 10 Albert Square, Stepney ; Mrs Collier, 6 Chester Square, S.W. ; Miss Clifford, 17 Lowndes Street, S.W. ; Mrs Craigie, 56 Lancaster Gate ; Miss Donelan, 9 Queen Anne Terrace, Cambridge ; Miss Evans, 122 Kennington Road ; Miss M. Elliot, 11 St George's Place ; Miss Eyre, 9 John Street, Mayfair ; Miss Faith, 10 Fitzroy Square, W. ; Mrs Gurney ; Miss de Gana, 20 Marloes Road, Kensington ; Mrs Claude Hay, 77 Cadogan Place ; Miss Howard, St Cecilia's, 10 Albert Square, Stepney ; Miss E. Hall, St Cecilia's, 10 Albert Square, Stepney ; Mrs Huth, 29 Alfred Place, West Thurloe Square ; Miss Hughes, 29 Alfred Place, West Thurloe Square ; Miss O'C. Hayes, 37 St Lawrence Road, North Kensington ; Miss E. Hobson, 28 Rosary Gardens, South Kensington ; Miss Nora Logan, 6 Richmond Terrace, Whitehall ; Miss C. Langdale, 6 Ovington Gardens, S.W. ; Miss Martindale, 64 Princes Gate ; Mrs Madden, 92 Mount Street ; Miss B. O'Reilly, 8 Adelphi Street, Strand ; Miss Maude Petze, 12 Camden Grove, Kensington ; Miss Pownall, 130 Kensington Park Road, Bayswater ; Miss Ray, 24 Princes Square, Bayswater ; Miss Sutherland, 122 Kennington Road ; Miss Streeter, 26 Onslow Square, S.W. ; Miss Laura Sheridan, 1 Templeton Place, S.W. ; Miss Mary Stourton, 26 Onslow Square, S.W. ; Miss Tuke, St Cecilia's, 10 Albert Square, Stepney ; Miss Ulcoq, 22 Pembridge Crescent, Bayswater ; Miss Vasquez, 16 Gordon Place, Kensington ; Mrs Watson, 1 Kingsley Mansions, West Kensington ; Miss Watson, 1 Kingsley Mansions, West Kensington ; Miss Walker ; Miss M. H. Walker.

## STEWARDS FOR ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.

Miss Ayrton and Miss Ritter, *Head Stewards* ; Mrs Arkwright Sutton, Scarsdale, Chesterfield ; Miss Kirwan, 26 Onslow Square, South Kensington ; Miss Mackenna, 3 Alexander Square, South Kensington ; Miss Maud Murphy, 3 Coleherne Road, S.W. ; Miss Gertrude Murphy, 3 Coleherne Road, S.W. ; Mrs Bailey ; Miss Baines ; Miss Cartright ; Miss Mabel Chaplin ; Miss Phyllis Chaplin ; Mrs Cranston Charles ; Mrs Collier ; Miss Fell Smith ; Miss Festing ; Miss Foster ; Miss Gowa ; Miss Hervey ; Miss Hyam ; Miss Jacob ; Miss Jaffins ; Miss Keeling ; Miss Menell ; Miss Morland ; Miss O'Brien ; Miss Owen ; Miss Peard ; Miss Preston ;

Miss Ransome Schönberg; Miss Shute; Miss Thies; Miss Tildesby; Miss Toynbee; Miss Woon; Miss Vine.

**STAFF OF CLERKS EMPLOYED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COMMITTEE  
OF ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF THE  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.**

Miss Pulley, *Head Clerk*; Miss Temple; Miss Miller; Miss Hayland; Miss Hadley; Miss Powell; Miss Dugdale.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF INQUIRY OFFICE UNDER MISS WILSON DURING  
THE CONGRESS—Miss Dale.**

# MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTER- NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

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COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.

MONDAY, JUNE 26, MORNING.

THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN took the Chair as President, and there were present—Mrs May Wright Sewall, *Vice-President at Large*; Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg, *Treasurer*; Mme. Oddo Deflou, representing the *Recording Secretary* (Mme. Martin); Miss Teresa F. Wilson, *Corresponding Secretary*; Mrs Fanny Humphreys Gaffney, President of United States Council; Mrs Boomer, representing the President of Canadian Council; Frau Annie Simson, representing the President of German Council; Fru Hierta-Retzius, President of Swedish Council; Lady Battersea, representing the President of British Council (Mrs Booth); Mrs D. E. Armitage, representing the President of New South Wales Council (Lady Hampden); Fröken Forchammer, representing the President of Danish Council; Mme. Klerck van Hogendorp, President of Dutch Council; Mrs Sidney Webb, representing the President of New Zealand Council (Mrs Sheppard); also the accredited Delegates from National Councils and the Honorary Vice-Presidents and Honorary Representatives of countries without a Council (present without a vote).

The President, in opening the proceedings, said she would not take up the time of the meeting further than to say how pleased she was to meet the delegates, and what an honour and privilege she felt it to occupy the chair. She was sure they would feel with her that the position had many difficulties, and that she

must depend both on their support and their indulgence. She would at once ask that the minutes of the last meeting might be read, unless the delegates of the different Councils present thought they might be taken as read, as the report of the last meeting had been sent to all the Councils.

**Mme. Klerck (Holland)** moved that the minutes be taken as read.

**Rev. Anna Shaw (Delegate, United States)** suggested that the Committee accept the minutes as correct.

It was accordingly moved and seconded that the minutes be taken as read.

**Frau Simson (Germany)** wished to bring before the meeting a protest from the German Council as to the length of notice given for the last Executive Meeting. They did not consider five weeks a sufficient notice. They also protested against Vice-Presidents having been appointed at that meeting.

The President pointed out that the only officers appointed in March were Honorary Vice-Presidents; regularly elected officers were only nominated. As to the notice of meeting, the meeting had been convened under the first Standing Order:—

*"I. The Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be convened by the President or acting President at such time and place as may seem to her desirable for the efficient conduct of the work of the Council. Not less than four months' notice shall be given to each member, unless most urgent business compels the Committee being called together at shorter notice."*

She had called that meeting together, as she considered there was a good deal of urgent business, especially the federation of new Councils, which could not otherwise have taken place.

If no other business arose out of the minutes, she must mention two resolutions of which she had given notice—one regarding the Executive, the other a matter of order.

The first of these resolutions referred to the Headquarters of the National Council, the second to the future Congresses.

**Frau Simson (Germany)** said that Miss Wilson had intimated that it was not definitely settled where the next meeting be held, as she thought it might be a mistake to hold the next Congress at Berlin, as so many subjects were not permitted to be discussed by women in Germany. She desired to ask what subjects would not be permitted? At two meetings of the Executive, Berlin had been accepted as the centre for the next Congress. Why did the third meeting not accept that centre also?

**Miss Wilson (Corresponding Secretary)** did not think that her

remarks should be taken as more than an expression of opinion. Her views were based upon her experience of the Congress held at Berlin a few years ago, when she understood that there were police present at every meeting to prevent any discussion on matters of State, and one informal meeting was stopped. She was not present at that meeting herself, but thought others would bear out what she said.

**Frau Bieber Boehm** (Delegate, Germany) considered Miss Wilson was quite mistaken. She could have no knowledge of anything of the kind, and it would be preposterous to avoid Berlin for that reason. The police had nothing to do with such things.

The President, on being asked, gave her opinion that at this meeting members of the Executive only were asked to speak, and delegates were merely invited to attend.

**Miss Susan B. Anthony** (United States) read part of Article V. from the general Constitution of the Council, where it stated that "the President and two delegates from every federated National Council, together with the general officers, shall alone have the right to vote." "Honorary Vice-Presidents and Presidents of Council which have not yet federated shall be invited to attend and take part in the Committee of Arrangements, but shall have no vote."

The President was sorry if there was a mistake. The Executive consisted of members of National Councils only, and she read the clause from Article III. of the Constitution, which stated that:—

*"The 5 general officers, with the vice-presidents, that is the presidents of federated National Councils, shall constitute an Executive Committee, of which two-thirds of the whole number shall make a quorum, to control and provide for the general interests of the International Council."*

*"In all countries where a National Council is not already organised or federated with the International Council, some woman shall be elected to represent her country as honorary vice-president of that country in the International Council, until such times as a National Council shall be fully organised and eligible for membership in the International Council. All such honorary vice-presidents shall be invited to attend and take part in the meetings of the Executive, but shall have no vote."*

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) felt that the Article in the Constitution stating who constituted the Executive Committee had been differently interpreted by different countries. Personally she had understood from Lady Aberdeen

that this meeting was not a meeting of the Quinquennial Council, for the Quinquennial Council did not open formally until the afternoon, but that this was a purely formal meeting of the Executive to put the business into the hands of the whole working Council for the subsequent business meetings. They were merely differing on a question of interpretation. In the United States they had always thought that the Executive Committee had charge of the affairs of the Council during the interim of the meetings. The whole matter turned upon whether this was the last meeting of the Executive in the interim of the quinquennial meetings, or the first meeting of the Executive for the quinquennial. If for the quinquennial, then surely delegates should have the same rights as general officers; if for the interim, merely for the purpose of putting business into shape to hand over to the Council for the quinquennial, then it should be limited to officers, in accordance with the Article in the Constitution read by the President.

The **President** considered that Mrs May Wright Sewall had put the point correctly. This was a meeting of the Executive in the interim—the last meeting—at which they hoped all business would be put into order and arranged. She had thought it right to ask Miss Wilson, when calling the meeting, to enclose a notice asking delegates and vice-presidents to be present, as a matter of courtesy. It was now in the hands of the Executive to invite delegates and hon. vice-presidents to take part in the proceedings; equally, the Executive had the power to request the delegates to withdraw and hold a private meeting.

**Mrs Creighton** (Great Britain) asked why the delegates had had an agenda sent to them?

The **President** said that this had been done at her request. The last Committee of Arrangements had come to the conclusion that hon. vice-presidents and fraternal delegates should not take part in the discussions; she had therefore assumed, on the same principle, that the Executive only would take part in the discussion at the present meeting.

**Miss Wilson** (Corresponding Secretary) stated that she had put in her letter that delegates might take part in the discussion. They had done so very largely at the last meeting, and had greatly influenced the feeling of the meetings. She had acted on the practice of the last five years.

The **President** asked the meeting to decide whether or not they wished delegates and vice-presidents to take part in the discussions.

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) felt that the meeting would be very glad to have the advice of delegates; if they were excluded from the meetings of the Quinquennial Executive it was simply because it was not thought possible that they could be present.

She therefore moved:—

*"That delegates of all National Councils present this morning be invited to take part in the discussion of this meeting should they so desire."*

This resolution was duly seconded and carried.

**Frau Simson** (Germany) asked when the list of nominations for the Council was to be laid before the Executive.

The President explained that, according to the rules, the Nomination Committee, consisting of one delegate from each Council, would be appointed that morning. This committee would consider all nominations that came in, and would report to the Council.

#### Correspondence and Corresponding Secretary's Report.

**Miss Wilson** stated that she had a considerable amount of correspondence, but it mostly referred to business that would come on later. She read the report of what had been done since the last Executive.

"I have pleasure in reporting that since our last meeting, on March 23, we have added still further to our numbers. The National Council of New Zealand has definitely applied for federation, which, according to instructions, I was empowered to accept, without waiting for their final proposal to be laid before the committee. Last week we received an intimation that the women of Tasmania had formed a National Council and desired to federate. I shall lay the story of their movement before you presently. This will make ten federated National Councils, all of which have their full representation here for the Quinquennial Sessions of 1899, and the very latest information to hand is that the women of Switzerland have now decided to form a National Council, but not in time for this quinquennial. In accordance with the powers granted at the last Executive to our President and myself to secure the representation of countries in which National Councils are not yet formed, I have to report a number of interesting particulars. We have been fortunate enough to secure the presence of Madame Bogelot, one of the ablest and

most representative women of France, appointed Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur after her mission on the part of the Government of France to Chicago in 1893, with Mlle. Sarah Monod as delegate, who is head of a large section of women workers in France, and who will, we hope, carry back to her fellow-country-women fuller knowledge of the Council movement. In many cases it has seemed imperative for the spread of the Council and for its future interests that there should be appointed a delegate as well as an hon. vice-president for certain countries, and especially when there is the prospect of a not very remote move towards the formation of a National Council. We felt it possible to arrange for this, inasmuch as the position carried with it no voting power, but only the right to hear and learn all that can be got out of this great gathering. The Committee of Italy, for the formation of a Council, have desired Mrs Crawshay, who is so well known and beloved by them all, to represent Countess Taverna, and we are glad to have with us also Signora Lodi, from Rome. The Russian Committee did not appoint a second delegate, but we have with us the secretary of that committee, Madame Boubnoff, as well as Dr Kosakevitch-Stephanofskia, who represents the President. From Hungary comes Frau Engel, as delegate. At our last Executive we elected Mrs Bear-Crawford as vice-president for Victoria, as we knew the splendid work she was doing in Melbourne. At her earnest request, Janet, Lady Clarke, was invited to join as her fellow-representative, and she remains now as sole representative for her colony, as Mrs Bear-Crawford was a few weeks ago carried away by a sharp and sudden illness. I trust that this Executive will realise what a serious loss this is, not only to her fellow-workers in Melbourne, but also in all that concerns the International Council. Twenty-seven societies, in 16 different towns of Norway, have written to appoint Miss Gina Krog as their representative at these meetings, and we have invited her to accept the position of hon. vice-president. The Agents-General of South Australia, West Australia and Queensland have kindly helped us to find hon. vice-presidents for these respective colonies, so that we are honoured in having with us to-day, as hon. vice-presidents, Mrs Cockburn and Mrs Wittenoom, wives of the Agents-General for South Australia and West Australia respectively, as well as Mrs Gawler, who has spent most of her life in Australia, and Mrs Fisher, to whom Sir Horace Tozer has kindly given us an introduction as hon. vice-president for Queensland. Cape Colony has responded nobly to the appeal made to her. A committee was

summoned of all the societies, both of Cape Town and the country districts, and they have officially sent to this gathering two ladies duly appointed to represent the town and country interests, namely, Mrs Stewart, of Lovedale, and Mrs Nixon, at present in London. I must add that there is a considerable contingent of members of this committee present in London, and that the greatest interest is taken in the Council movement. The same story may be told of the Argentine Republic, where, at a gathering of the 9 societies of Buenos Ayres and district, Dr Cecilia Grierson was duly elected to attend these quinquennial meetings. She also has been appointed hon. vice-president. India still remains a problem. We have Mrs Flora Annie Steele with us, who has kindly consented to act in a semi-official position to-day, and Miss Mary Bhor as second representative. I have also to report that some 10 Indian ladies at present in London have been invited, at Miss Manning's request, to be present at our gathering this afternoon, as silent representatives of the great numbers of their countrywomen. From Persia we welcome Mrs James Neilson Hamilton, wife of the American Consul there, who was elected vice-president last July. The Chinese Ambassador to England has carried out the promise made by Sir Henry Chesney that a Chinese lady delegate should be appointed; and we will have with us a lady of distinguished family, Madame Shen, who will be present this afternoon, as hon. vice-president, with an interpreter. At the earnest request of Iceland we have invited Fröken Siefansson to represent her country. The ratification of these appointments for the present session is asked for from this Executive, pending the election of hon. vice-presidents for the next quinquennial period.

"The following International Societies have undertaken to send fraternal delegates:—

Bureau International Permanent de la Paix—Miss Ellen Robinson.

Fédération Abolitionniste Générale—Mlle. Camille Vidart.

General Federation of Women's Clubs—Mrs William B. Lowe.

Union Internationale des Amies de la Jeune Fille—  
Mme. de Tscharner de Watteville.

World's Women's Christian Temperance Union—Miss Agnes Slack.

World's Young Women's Christian Association — Mrs Tritton.

International League of Press Clubs—Mrs Cynthia Westover Alden.

"At the Committee of Arrangements which met on Thursday last, it was decided that these fraternal delegates be permitted to attend the open sessions of the Council as listeners only, and without vote, with the exception, of course, of the public meeting this afternoon. It was also agreed that members of Council—i.e., members of federated National Councils—should not be permitted to join in discussion at the business sessions of the Council, except by express permission of the Council. The first meeting of the International Finance Committee was held on Saturday, June 24th, when various questions were discussed and the names of patrons proposed."

The adoption of Miss Wilson's report was moved by Fru Retzius (Sweden), seconded by Fru Norrie (Denmark), and carried.

**Frau Simson** (Germany) pointed out that there were so many different delegates that some misunderstanding had arisen, and in Germany they did not consider it quite right to use the word delegate on all occasions.

The President explained that the names of accredited official delegates only were printed in the front page of the hand-book, and they were the only ones recognised as delegates.

**Rev. Anna Shaw** thought the difficulty arose because it had been arranged that there were to be honorary delegates as well as ordinary delegates. Several ladies had come to her in the hall that morning, and asserted that they were delegates, and she found from their papers that they were really only honorary delegates.

**Miss Wilson** (Corresponding Secretary) said that this difficulty had occurred again and again. Printed slips had been sent out stating that no *society* could send a delegate, but it seemed impossible to make people understand.

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) wished to move a resolution that would clear the matter up. She knew the difficulty and sympathised with Miss Wilson, but thought it a great mistake for the word "Delegate" to have been printed in connection with the representatives of societies. In many cases representatives were *not elected* to come at all; they were *invited* as speakers, through the courtesy of the International Executive, and it would clear the matter up if this mistake could be corrected in all subsequent printed matter. Many people from

her own country would never have been considered as delegates at all, and she did not wish them, on their return to America, to have one scrap of paper that could in any way give a false impression as to who were the accredited delegates to the International Council.

After discussion it was decided to use the word honorary "Representative" instead of "Delegate," and **Mrs May Wright Sewall** accordingly moved:—

*"That in all subsequent printing relating to this Quinquennial, the name 'accredited' shall be applied only to delegates duly elected by Affiliated National Councils. That ladies invited to represent countries where National Councils are not yet formed shall be called 'Honorary Vice-Presidents' and 'Honorary Representatives.' That ladies invited to represent International Societies shall be called 'Fraternal Representatives.'"*

**Fru Retzius** (Sweden) seconded this resolution, which was carried.

**Frau Bieber Boehm** (Germany) hoped it would be possible to have a very clear understanding put in the newspapers on this subject.

The President also thought this advisable, and then asked whether the committee desired to have the Report of the International Council submitted to them?

**Lady Battersea** (Great Britain) moved, and **Mrs Gaffney** (United States) seconded—

*"That the Quinquennial Report of the International Council of Women be taken as read."*

But **Mrs Creighton** (Great Britain) thought that the Report of the International should be heard, and **Lady Battersea** accordingly withdrew her resolution.

**Miss Wilson** then read the Report, the adoption of which, for submission to the Council, was moved by **Mrs May Wright Sewall**, seconded by **Mrs Armitage**, and carried.

**Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg** (Treasurer) then read the Treasurer's Report for the term ending June 1899.

RECEIPTS—

British National Council,	.	.	.	£20	0	0
Canadian, "	"	.	.	20	0	0
New South Wales, "	"	.	.	20	0	0
German, "	"	.	.	20	0	0
Carry forward,				£80	0	0

	Brought forward,	£	80	0	0
Swedish, "	.	20	12	6	
Danish, "	.	4	0	0	
Dutch, "	.	2	0	0	
United States, "	.	20	0	0	
Mrs J. Nielson Hamilton,	.	20	0	0	
Mrs Walter Barrett,	.	2	0	0	
		148	12	6	

## EXPENDITURE for year ending June 1899—

	£	20	0	0
Office Rent,	.	22	2	5
Salaries for Secretarial Work,	.	50	9	9
Printing and Stationery,	.	2	8	7
Typewriting,	.	6	6	3
Postages, Letters and Telegrams,	.	1	11	6
Messenger Call Box, etc.—	.	1	4	3
Telegraphic Address,	.	0	17	2
Travelling Expenses,	.	2	2	0
Sundry Expenses,	.	41	10	7
Durrant's Press Cutting Agency,	.			
Balancee in Hand,	.			
		148	12	6

I have examined the above accounts with the vouchers, and found them correct. (Signed) M. S. Clugston, Accountant.

**Mrs Gaffney** (United States) moved, and **Frau Simson** (Germany) seconded the adoption of this Report.

The President stated that only 3 National Councils had appointed members to the Finance Committee — the United States, Canada and Great Britain. The first meeting of the Finance Committee had taken place on Saturday last, when the proceedings were of an informal character, and it was hoped that at the end of the International Congress another meeting of this committee might be held to consider the financial arrangements of the Council. She reminded delegates that each country would be requested to appoint a member to the Finance Committee.

The next business on the agenda was the application for federation from the National Council of Tasmania. Mrs Dobson had brought the request from the Tasmanian Council; would she state the grounds on which the application was made?

**Mrs Dobson** (Tasmania) stated that, after receiving Miss Wilson's letter, every Society of Women was communicated with, and a meeting held in Hobart. At that National Council

meeting Lady Gormanston was appointed President, Lady Hamilton and Mrs Dobson, delegates, and in that capacity she was immediately sent to England to express the strong desire of the Tasmanian Women for affiliation to the International Council.

The President was sure that the committee would appreciate the energy of Mrs Dobson in starting at 24 hours' notice.

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) asked how many societies were represented in the Tasmanian National Council?

**Mrs Dobson** (Tasmania) replied that there were about 10 Northern societies, and about the same number of Southern ones.

(Miss Wilson read the names of the societies).

**Lady Hamilton** (Tasmania) stated that great progress had been made in women's work in Tasmania. If sympathy were wanted they need only go to that country, though it was "at the far ends of the earth."

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) moved, **Lady Battersea** seconded, and it was carried:—

*"That the application for membership of the Tasmanian National Council to the International Council be accepted."*

The President assumed the willingness of Tasmania to pay the federation fee.

**Mrs Dobson** said that was quite understood.

The President begged Mrs Dobson to convey the hearty welcome of the International Council of Women to the women of Tasmania. At the last meeting of the Executive it had been decided to empower the International Council to accept the application of New Zealand to affiliate on certain conditions. She would like the correspondence placed before the Executive to be read.

**Miss Wilson** (Corresponding Secretary) quoted extracts from the New Zealand letter. . . . "It was resolved, on April 15th, that the National Council of the Women of New Zealand should affiliate . . . with an entrance fee of £10, and that £2 only be sent to London, with £1 further for stationery. . . . It was decided to ask Mrs Reeves, Mrs Sidney Webb, and Mrs McCosh Clarke to act as delegates; if these ladies were unable to do so, it was resolved to ask Miss Wilson to appoint a suitable delegate or delegates."

**Frau Simson** (Germany) begged the Council to take into consideration the fact that the acceptance of reduced fees might be dangerous. Councils paying reduced fees received equal rights and had not equal duties.

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) said the President had requested her to explain what had happened at the meeting of the Finance Committee. They approved of the action of the Executive, held in March, in accepting these Councils at a fifth of the stipulated quinquennial fee; inasmuch as the full fee for five years was £20, so many Councils had come in within the last year that if they paid £4 each the Finance Committee found it wise to approve of that action, and to recommend that it be endorsed by the Council. At the same time there was a very strong expression of opinion, and in the end a unanimous agreement, that all Councils should be held to the payment of the full quinquennial fee—i.e., £20 for the 5 years. The recommendation in the Constitution was that this fee might hereafter be paid in annual instalments of £4 a year, but it also recommended the Finance Committee that no abatement be made with reference to the size of the Council. Her ground for speaking thus was simply the logical ground that the quinquennial term was approaching its end, and while the quinquennial session was the climax of the quinquennial period, and gave great pleasure and profit, at the same time it could not be considered as equivalent for the training that the Councils had received in working through the term. These new Councils did not abate their fees one bit, because in the next quinquennial term they would be expected to pay the full fee; they simply paid a fifth part for entering at this time.

**Mrs Dixson** (New South Wales) remonstrated that New South Wales had only entered last year but had yet paid the whole sum of £20. She did not see why, because they came in last year, they should pay the full £20 and other societies coming in this year only a reduced fee.

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) had much sympathy with that view. In the beginning she had not voted for the abatement of the fee at any time, because she was so much in sympathy with the movement that she thought any Council should consider it a privilege to federate with the International Council; but it might be borne in mind that for a good many years the United States had borne the entire expenses of keeping this idea alive, and those expenses had amounted to considerably more than \$500 a year; therefore she hoped that no Council that had paid its fee in full would feel aggrieved, but realised that it had had the pleasure of doing its full duty.

**Mrs Creighton** (Great Britain) said that Great Britain had

only joined last year, but they had offered no complaint as to the payment of the full fee.

**Miss Wilson** (Corresponding Secretary) explained that the matter had been brought up at the Executive Meeting last July, when it was decided that only a Council applying for a reduction of fee should have the matter considered. If Councils sent in no application for reduction, it was felt that they must pay the whole amount.

This decision was printed after the meeting and circulated to all countries and Councils. Every Council had the right to apply for a reduction. This was pointed out in the course of correspondence with Mrs Armitage, therefore, when no notice came, they concluded that the New South Wales Council would be generous enough to send the whole fee, which they did.

After some little discussion it was found that Mrs Armitage, in a letter to Miss Wilson, had stated that it was on the 27th of February 1898 that the New South Wales Council had decided on the payment of the whole fee.

**Mrs Dixson** (New South Wales) asked whether, having paid the whole fee of £20 so lately, they would be required to pay an equal amount for the next quinquennial term.

The President replied that this would be so.

**Rev. Anna Shaw** (United States) pointed out that the resolution passed by the Executive Committee as to the reduction of fee was contrary to the Constitution, which stated that the fee should be £20. No resolution passed by the Executive on this subject was valid, but at the same time it seemed reasonable to her that this reduction should be considered, and she should certainly be in favour of it, but not in favour of the Executive passing the resolution. She had been approached on the subject many times when delegates had been admitted to Quinquennial Meeting with full powers of voting, and the only way she could see out of the difficulty was that they were not now legislating for past conditions, and that in future all Councils would be held strictly responsible for the same amount of money and would have to obey the laws of the Council.

The President mentioned that at the last two Executive meetings, in 1897 and 1898, a number of amendments to the Standing Orders had been proposed. It had been agreed to act on these amendments, though, of course, they had not been formally accepted, and to try how they worked.

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) explained that no

provision had been made in many instances, as they had no Bye-laws and no Standing Orders on several points. It had therefore seemed to the Executive that a plan should be arranged by which preparations for the Quinquennial might be continued, and that by sending out these propositions to the different Councils, the Executive would be enabled to move forward on the lines indicated by the proposed amendments, trusting that their work for the preparation of the Quinquennial would be accepted by the Council.

**Mrs Gaffney** (United States) agreed with Rev. Anna Shaw in considering the action of the Executive Committee invalid. They could not go against the Constitution. At the same time she had great sympathy with the Executive, and would move to have their action endorsed, but she wished to point out that it was a most dangerous precedent to establish. There were a number of Councils organising, and as the international quinquennial term drew near, they naturally became infused with ardour, and with a wish to share in the meetings and other advantages. During the other four years they did not think so much about it, and it seemed wrong that a Council should be taken in and given full responsibility at the last moment. Of course she believed in the honest intention of those who joined, but the instalment system left open the possibility of a Council joining just before the quinquennial sessions and not continuing the subscription.

The President did not think that could be done. The matter would come before the Council on the report of the Finance Committee. Would delegates now appoint members of Councils for the Nominating Committee?

The following appointments were made:—United States, Miss Susan B. Anthony; Great Britain, Lady Laura Ridding; Canada, Mrs Willoughby Cummings; Germany, Frau Bieber Boehm; Sweden, Fröken Gertrud Adelborg; New South Wales, Mrs Dixson; Denmark, Fru Charlotte Norrie; Holland, Miss Kramers; Tasmania, Lady Hamilton, and 2 ladies from New Zealand to be nominated later.

**Mrs Gaffney** moved and **Mrs Boomer** seconded the appointment of the Nominating Committee.

**Rev. Anna Shaw** (United States) wished to ask a question with regard to the duties of the Nominating Committee. Were they to select from the names sent in persons whom they would recommend being elected to serve as officers of the International Council, or had they the power of accepting or rejecting names? If so,

they would practically be the electing body of the whole International Council.

The President understood that the names of all candidates were to be submitted to the Nominating Committee, the committee adding their own recommendation as to which candidates they considered best able to serve on the International Council. Discussion of respective qualifications of candidates was best conducted in private, and for this purpose the Nominating Committee was appointed.

**Frau Bieber Boehm** (Germany) had an amendment to propose with regard to the Constitution and the election of officers, but the President explained that no amendment could be accepted now; it would have to be given notice of for the next meeting.

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) asked into whose hands the corresponding secretaries were to entrust the report from their respective National Councils?

The President thought it would be the universal wish of the Executive that Miss Susan B. Anthony should undertake to be the convener and chairman of this Committee, as she represented the oldest Council.

**Miss Susan B. Anthony** (United States) was greatly honoured and accepted the nomination.

**Frau Simson** (Germany) asked whether it was understood that the international officers must all be members of the National Councils of those countries where there were affiliated National Councils. She thought this was understood, but it had not been definitely expressed and the order should be amended.

**Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg** (Treasurer) quite agreed with Frau Simson. She quite understood that at the beginning of the movement, when there were very few Councils, it was necessary to appoint international officers from countries where there were no affiliated Councils, but now the movement had grown so much that it would be much better to appoint officers only from the countries where National Councils were affiliated.

The President pointed out that no notice of motion had been brought forward on this question. There was no rule to that effect now. Notice of motion could be given.

She asked the Executive Committee to appoint the manner in which the election of officers should be conducted—by a show of hands or by ballot.

**Rev. Anna Shaw** (United States) did not think the Executive

ought to assume the authority of the Convention. The question of how the voting should be done should be brought before the body that had to vote, not before the committee, which had no power.

**Mrs Creighton** (Great Britain) suggested that the Executive should decide to have the election by ballot; the ballot papers would then be got ready, and if the larger body decided on a show of hands there would then be no cause for delay.

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) moved, **Mrs Gaffney** seconded, and it was carried:—

*"That it is the recommendation of the Executive that the election be by ballot."*

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) stated that she had two nominations for international patrons from the National Council of the United States. It gave her much pleasure to bring before the Executive the names of **Mrs Alison Bybee** and of **Mrs MacLeine**, both of whom were patrons of the National Council of the United States.

The President stated that any person whose name was accepted by the committee might become a patron on the payment of £20.

**Mrs Boomer** (Canada) nominated **Mrs Sanford** of Hamilton, Canada, president of the Local Council of Hamilton, as an international patron.

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) moved the acceptance of these 3 ladies.

The President said she knew that there was a desire felt by many members of Council to be able to invite women who had done good work for women in different countries to occupy an honorary position on the Council. There was a difference of opinion as to the method in which this should be done, but she would give notice that she would submit to the Council, in case the proposal was carried to elect councillors, the names of **Mrs Julia Howe**, **Miss Susan B. Anthony**, **Miss Clara Barton**, **Miss Florence Nightingale** and **Miss Frances Power Cobbe** as councillors.

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) said that should the motion to invite councillors be carried, she would like to propose **Miss Elizabeth Cady Stanton**.

A delegate proposed **Miss Octavia Hill**.

Speakers were then appointed to move the different resolutions on the agenda.

**Miss Wilson** (Corresponding Secretary) asked the permission of the Committee to have the resolution with regard to the international means of communication, through the Press, brought before the meeting of journalists on Friday afternoon, as she felt it was a very fit resolution for that meeting.

Permission was granted.

The **President** announced that it had been arranged at the Council meeting that the amendments of Constitution and the proposed Standing Orders should be taken at one of the later meetings, when it had been seen how the provisional standing orders had acted.

**Rev. Anna Shaw** (United States) understood that nothing could be brought before the Council which had not been submitted to the Executive. She felt that the Constitution, as it at present stood, was an undignified Constitution and ought not to go out as representing so important a body. Could not a committee be appointed whose duty it should be to revise that Constitution and separate it into its component parts?

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) wished the Constitution could be revised. She was in sympathy with the general view, but thought they need not wait five years before this revision was made. It seemed possible to at once pass a resolution, to appoint a committee to take the Constitution and the Standing Rules in order, to make a separation and correct arrangements as suggested by Rev. Anna Shaw. This was very desirable, because one of the difficulties arose from things not being in their logical order. It was not anyone's fault; the Constitution was an old one, but they had had it as a basis to work on. She would now move:—

*"That from the voting officers of the Council at this Quinquennial Session, a committee shall be formed to whom the Constitution and Standing Rules shall be referred, after the amendments have been acted upon, with instructions to arrange the same in proper order under the three heads—the Constitution, Bye-laws and Standing Rules. That these, as thus arranged by the committee, shall be printed and the information sent out from the Council during the next Quinquennial period, and that this Committee shall be instructed to consider and recommend such other amendments of Constitution, Bye-laws and Standing Rules as may seem to them desirable to be acted upon at the next Quinquennial Session."*

**Mrs Gaffney** (United States) seconded the resolution, which was carried, and the adjournment of the meeting was then moved by her.

## PUBLIC MEETING OF WELCOME.

CONVOCATION HALL OF CHURCH HOUSE,  
DEAN'S YARD, WESTMINSTER.

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*MONDAY, JUNE 26, AFTERNOON.*

THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN in the Chair.

THE International Council of Women opened its Quinquennial Meeting of 1899 by a public meeting of welcome to the delegates. The Westminster Town Hall, which had first been engaged for this gathering, having proved far too small to accommodate the applicants for tickets, the Convocation Hall of the Church House was secured, and it was announced that only holders of the International Congress tickets would be admitted. There was an overflowing attendance in every part of the large hall, and many members of Congress, unfortunately, found it impossible to gain an entrance.

The platform was beautifully decorated with palms and roses, and the stately hall presented a brilliant scene of brightness and colour.

The Countess of Aberdeen, President of the International Council of Women and of the International Congress convened by that Council, occupied the Chair, and around her on the platform were grouped the International Officers, the official Delegates of the ten Federated National Councils of Women ; the honorary Vice-Presidents and honorary representatives of the countries where no Councils have yet been formed ; and the fraternal representatives of societies internationally organised. One side of the hall was reserved for the members of the various Congress committees and for the invited speakers, and the other side and the galleries were open to all members of Congress.



THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

*President of the International Council of Women, 1893-1899.*

(Photo by Lafayette.)

[To face p. 44.]



On taking the Chair, the President was presented with a magnificent bouquet of roses by Miss Marjorie Mackenzie Davidson, the little daughter of Mrs Mackenzie Davidson, the Secretary of the Hospitality Committee.

Some letters of apology having been read by Miss Teresa F. Wilson, Corresponding Secretary, the Countess of Aberdeen proceeded to the delivery of her

## Presidential Address.

MEMBERS of the International Council of Women, I welcome you in the name of the holy bond that unites us, and I pray God that He may direct us in the discharge of our high duties.

I have never before had the opportunity of personally thanking the members of the International Council for the honour they did me in electing me their President in 1893. That position was unsought by me, and in accepting it I little knew what it involved, and had no conception of the work it entailed. All was new, and I know that I have made many mistakes. I can only crave forgiveness for these mistakes, and at the same time thank my colleagues for all their many kindnesses and forbearance.

My friends and sisters, on behalf of the International Council, I convey to you heartfelt thanks for all that you have done on behalf of the Council in your own countries, and for the effort you have made to be present with us to-day, many of you coming from great distances at much personal expense and inconvenience.

There is not time to offer you each a personal welcome, but I beg you to believe in the genuineness of our greeting, and in our desire to make you each and all feel at home.

For 11 years our Council has been evolving itself, until to-day we can greet the delegates of 9 organised and federated National Councils formed successively in the

United States of America,  
Canada,  
Germany,  
Sweden,  
Great Britain and Ireland,  
New South Wales,

Denmark,  
Holland,  
New Zealand,  
Tasmania,

and the representatives of 6 other countries or colonies where the women are preparing to join us, and where committees have been formed to work in co-operation with us,—

Italy,  
Austria,  
Russia,  
Switzerland,  
Norway,  
Cape Colony,  
Victoria.

And besides these, we have the pleasure of seeing with us Vice Presidents from—

France,  
Belgium,  
China,  
Persia,  
India,  
The Argentine Republic,  
Iceland,  
Palestine.

It is well that before we enter on our labours we should be given an opportunity to meet one another face to face, as we do this afternoon, and as we shall do this evening at Stafford House, and as we take one another by the hand, to pledge ourselves to be true to our common allegiance, and to endeavour to live and act and speak throughout this Congress in the spirit of that unity after which we strive.

In each of the countries represented the movement is probably taking shape differently, according to the genius and spirit of each people, and this is, above all, what we desire, so that our National Councils may in very truth be *national* in character.

But this difference must involve different modes of thought and expression on the various subjects to be considered, and I venture to claim special indulgence from our members of Congress for all our delegates and visitors on this score, so that care should be taken rightly to understand and duly weigh points of view which may be new to us, and therefore apt to be misapprehended. And that same indulgence I beg to ask now for myself while I

attempt to open this Congress with a few general remarks on the objects which have brought us together, but which I cannot hope will appeal to all alike.

It may not be out of place to consider for a moment the character of the allegiance to which we, the members of this International Council, have committed ourselves.

#### “THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL.”

Let me remind members of Congress who it is we include under that designation—that the “International Council” consists of National Councils established in the various countries already mentioned, and that these National Councils consist in their turn of National Societies and of Local Councils or Unions, which again are federations of the local societies, institutions and organisations, the manifold operations of which are so familiar to us.

It will be asked, How in the world can such a conglomeration of associations existing in so many different countries, and formed for so many various objects, some actually opposed to one another, and comprising hundreds of thousands of women of different religions, different races and upbringing, have an intelligible purpose and work together for a practical end?

And yet we claim that in the very variety of opinions and ideas and methods of work which exist amongst us lies our *raison d'être*, the centre and kernel of our being. For the unity which it is our aim to seek after does not lie in identity of organisation or identity of dogma, but in a common consecration to the service of humanity in the spirit of that love which we hail as the greatest thing in the world.

Adhesion to the golden rule, and an undertaking to further its application, as far as possible, to all relations of life, is the one passport required for admission to our Council. “Do unto others as ye would they would do unto you”—that is our rule, and we freely grant to all the same liberty of interpretation that we claim for ourselves as to how that law should be applied.

This may appear to some pure idealism, and idealism of a nature unlikely to be of any practical value. This is not, however, our view or experience. True, it precludes us from organising ourselves in favour of any one propaganda at the cost of another. The founders of the Council who formulated our Constitution wisely foresaw that if we identified ourselves with any

movement of a controversial character, that we should sacrifice forthwith the very essence of the Council idea which is to provide a common centre for women workers of every race, faith, class and party, who are associating themselves together in the endeavour to leave the world better and more beautiful than they have found it.

How, then, do we propose to make this heterogeneous union effectual for good?

I think that many of us in this hall will be able to answer that question with more conviction at the close of these Council and Congress meetings than at their commencement. That at least was the experience of those who attended the Women's Congress at Chicago; and our Council hopes that the gathering they have convened of women experienced in work of various kinds in various parts of the world will result not only in an enlargement of our minds, but in an understanding of one another, in an appreciation of one another's work, and a realisation of one another's difficulties, which will so strengthen the bonds of love and faith which unite us as to make the International Council a very living reality for good.

We may know much about one another through books and reports, but to look upon one another's faces and to discuss questions of deep moment from our various standpoints must place us on an entirely different relationship for ever after.

Thus, knowing and trusting one another, we shall be in a position to act together when called upon in one of those emergencies where all can co-operate for the good of our common humanity. Such an emergency calls to us at the present moment, and illustrates how practical action can be taken by the Council when occasion arises. More than two years ago two of our National Councils gave notice of a resolution which would pledge us to further the movement for International Arbitration. This resolution has been submitted to all our National Councils, and I understand that all are unanimous in their opinion that this is a question which we may regard as having passed the controversial stage, and which the International Council should place in the foremost place on its programme. If, then, this resolution is passed at the meeting convened at the Queen's Hall to-morrow night, which we hope you will all attend, it will become our duty and our privilege to join hands with the noble band of men and women who have been labouring for this blessed cause for years, some of whom we have the honour now to see around us, and with them

welcome the dawn of that golden age when war shall be no more.

I have mentioned this great movement, which it will be in our power to advance in all the different countries represented here, only as an illustration of how the constitution of our Council puts us in a position to unite scattered forces for effective work when the moment comes for such action.

Let me now turn for a moment to internal organisation, and show how we have it in our power to take a very practical step for the benefit of women workers the world over during these Council meetings, if we accept a resolution which has been submitted to us, for the establishment of an International Bureau of Information regarding all that affects women, their education, work, position, opportunities, in all countries, and to which all women and associations of women can have access on the payment of a small fee.

But this needs some money, and I must not anticipate the decision of the Council, nor must I dwell on the Congress itself, and on the rich provision which has been made, as may be seen from our programmes, for gathering a harvest of knowledge and experience from the exchange of views which we have invited.

I wish, however, to lay stress on one particular feature of our Congress which is not sufficiently recognised. This is a *Women's International Congress*; but it will be noticed that we have secured the assistance of a number of gentlemen on our platforms; that we gratefully accept gentlemen patrons; and that many of the associations which are represented here through the National Councils with which they are federated are organisations composed of men and women working together. And I think that the great majority of us feel that this is as it should be.

The present age has with much reason been called the *Woman's Age*, and truly the last 50 years have produced a revolution in the position, responsibilities and opportunities of women, and the whole face of social life and philanthropy has been changed thereby.

It was inevitable that one of the outcomes of this revolution should be the formation of associations and unions of women of all kinds and varieties for mutual help and work, for self-education and training, and for the attainment of objects of all sorts and conditions which are conceived to be for the welfare of the feminine sex or of the world in general. And this phase has been a necessary one. When woman found her life expanding

so fast in every direction, she had to endeavour to fit herself for the new conditions, and an apprenticeship to the new work had to be gone through.

And younger women who have been born into this new age can scarcely realise what the weight of responsibility has meant to those who have gone before.

The pioneer women who first broke down the barriers which had been closed so firmly against the participation of our mothers in higher education, or in any public duties whatsoever, had but barely finished their task, and the road was as yet rough and new, but yet the call seemed an imperative one to go forward and take up duties which appeared to us sacred and pressing, and at the same time to show that this could be done without sacrifice of our womanliness.

Remember, scarce a university, if any, had opened its doors to us, our teachers had been of the old school, we were untutored and untrained, and all we could do was to go forward and "do the next thyng."

What wonder if we quickly learnt to find shelter for our inexperience and our want of training in one another's support, and if by thus learning and working together we found the truth of the old maxim that in "union is strength?"

These associations which have now grown to such vast dimensions, and which wield so real a power, have been and are full of usefulness.

They have taught the women of our day lessons of co-operation and fellowship which they could scarcely have learnt otherwise. They have instilled in us some understanding of how to act together in constitutional fashion, bowing to the majority but respecting the rights of the minority, and perhaps, through somewhat trying experiences, we have learnt to value the contrast between despotic and democratic government.

But there are many of us who, whilst rejoicing in the many new opportunities which have year by year been thus won for women, and in the increased sense of responsibility regarding public and social life amongst women, which must effect so much for the country, yet have always felt that the banding together of ourselves apart from men for various objects must be regarded in most cases as a temporary expedient to meet a temporary need, and that it must not be allowed to crystallise into a permanent element in social life.

Man was not meant to live alone—but still less was woman.

Are not all these societies confined to one sex or the other, dividing the life of the race in a way not intended by nature or by God?

In bygone days the education and upbringing of women has not fitted them to work with men in the more public duties of life, nor to take their part in solving its deeper problems, and we cannot flatter ourselves that a very warm welcome to those public duties awaits us even now that conditions are largely changed.

But are we women now not unconsciously emphasising this practice of separate work, by arrogating to ourselves, in many cases, the duties of alone alleviating and curing all the sorrow and miseries and failings of the day by our own unaided efforts?

It may be well to have unions of mothers, but do the fathers count for so little in the home that their counsel is not needed?

It may be well and desirable at the present time to have our women's clubs and councils, and let us put our best effort into them to make them produce their best fruit, but let us also remember that they are but a means to an end, and that the redemption of the race can only be compassed by men and women joining hands and making common cause in every department of life—not both necessarily doing the same work, but combining to do each their own part of the whole together.

It is well that we should keep this future in view as we gather for our Congress. It is well also that it should be understood that we as a Council by no means desire to glorify the multiplication of associations and organisations, but rather that we believe that the tendency of National Councils of Women will be to diminish the necessity for the formation of many societies for specific ends as by bringing representatives of existing organisations more closely in touch it will enable these often to deal with some special need which may become evident without starting new machinery.

This is a not unimportant point. There are many earnest workers in the present day who are watching with anxiety the effect on the *home life* of the country of the numberless societies which have grown up of late years, and which, though admirable in themselves, create so many manifold interests that they may tend to separate husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, from the natural influences which each ought to exercise over one another and thus neutralise home-life.

Literary societies, classes, mothers' unions, clubs, young

people's societies, guilds for self-improvement or for recreation and sport, and the preparation for all these all seem to take up much of the leisure at our disposal for family life and to take the various members of the home circle in different directions. I am glad to think that this matter will be dealt with from many points of view during the Congress in considering the effects of education in all its stages,—of the professional life, of industrial competition, of political duties, and of social work on the family.

No subject can have a stronger claim on the consideration of an International Congress of Women, for if any mission is rightfully ours, it is that which exalts the home, and which will help men and women to rise to the full conception of what home life may mean.

It is often taken for granted that a Congress of Women will occupy itself in devising plans whereby women may be emancipated from the cares and duties of home. I think I may assert without fear of contradiction that this is not the ideal of this Congress, that we hold fast to the belief that woman's first mission must be her home, and that by it she will ever be judged, and that by its home life every country also which is represented here to-day will stand or fall.

The passion of patriotism appeals to women with a special force ; we here, whilst gathered together to honour and strengthen the tie which binds together our common humanity, yet each give to our own country our heart's first and truest devotion.

And yet do we not all dream of even a better country—a better country, which means, in other words, a land of better, happier, truer, holier homes ?

Where to none shall be denied their birthright of health of body and mind ; where environments will prevent none from living a true, pure life ; where skill and invention shall have lightened household toil ; where education shall bring to all alike "self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control" ; where, in perfect equality of opportunity, rights shall be forgotten in duties, and the burdens of parentage in its joys—there we shall know that the better homes will be found which will make that better country.

And the children of those days to come will grow up to be better parents, better citizens, better men and women.

As PARENTS,—Of wiser understanding, more loving patience. As CITIZENS,—Of higher ideals of patriotism, of wider charity, and deeper personal responsibility. As MEN





MRS. MAY WRIGHT SEWALL.

*Vice-President of the International Council of Women, 1893-1899. Elected President of International Council for Quinquennial term beginning July, 1899.*

[To face p. 53.]

**AND WOMEN**,—More enthusiastic for the service of humanity, more grateful for the beauty and joy of life, more resolute to face its trials and sorrows, of deeper reverence and more steadfast faith in those things which are eternal.

That is the future for which we are met here to work.  
May God be with us.

**The President**.—It will now be my pleasant and honourable duty and privilege to present personally to the members of the International Council and Congress their officers and delegates, and first I turn to my Vice-President, one who needs no introduction to the International Council, towards which she occupies a maternal relationship. She was amongst that little group of women who conceived the idea of this Council in 1888, and she has never since lost sight of it, whether in this country or in whatever country she found herself. The Council owes her a deep debt of gratitude in many ways, and I desire also, personally, to express my sense of indebtedness to her for the counsel, the co-operation and the support which she has so generously put at my command during my Presidency. Let me then introduce to you our honoured Vice-President, Mrs May Wright Sewall.

**Mrs May Wright Sewall** (Vice-President) said: Lady Aberdeen, Officers, Delegates, Friends of the International Council of Women, Ladies and Gentlemen,—“In those days their young men shall see visions and their young women shall dream dreams.” Some of the days referred to in this prophecy fell in the year 1888, others in 1893. Many of the visions seen and the dreams dreamed in 1888 had become realities in 1893, when the International Council of Women met in Chicago. The impulse given by that meeting to the dreamers may be seen in the larger horizons of those who see visions in 1899. That meeting included the first Quinquennial Session of the International Council, which then consisted of only two National Councils—Councils belonging to those sister Republics, the United States of the New World and France of the Old. However, around the representatives of those two Councils were grouped 32 nationalities in the presence of their accredited representatives, many of whom had been accredited by their respective Governments, two of whom had the expressed sanction of their respective Kings. However, when the day for the election of officers of the International Council arrived, it was difficult to find the woman who would take up what seemed to all but the incorrigible optimists a forlorn hope. The woman

found was absent from the meeting ; had she been present, perhaps she, too, would have been reluctant to assume the task. But what was a forlorn hope in 1893 is presented to the world in 1899 as a triumphant success. It has been a high privilege to be associated during the past 6 years with the honoured President of the International Council, Lady Aberdeen, who, with all her associate officers, may be congratulated to-day upon the auspices under which the second Quinquennial opens its session.

Of all people in the world, men and women of the Press should be best informed. During the few days that I have been in London it has been my privilege to meet and to be interviewed by many representatives of the Press. Of them all, only one has not commenced the interview by remarking, "I understand that the International Council is an American idea." I do not stand here to repudiate my country, but I do repudiate the suggestion that the International Council is an "American idea" in any sense which would limit the beneficent influences of the Council to America. America is, indeed, the birthplace of the Council idea ; America should be the birthplace of international ideas, since its people is conglomerate, including literally all the nations of the earth. The only possible way by which the United States of America, which has been peopled by contributions from all the nations of the world, can repay its debt to older civilisations is in the form of international ideas, the natural fruit of what may be termed an international population. The Councils that are drawn together in the International Council do not constitute a collection of fragments, but a solid, unified whole, which cannot fail to prove a blessing wherever a nation is sufficiently advanced to comprehend the international idea.

It is not my desire to obtrude myself to-day upon the attention of this audience. I join with you in wishing to hear the voices in their different tongues and their varying suggestive accents of the representatives of the 27 countries gathered here under the inspiration of the international idea, with the hope of being led to the accomplishment of international beneficent results under the protection, thank Heaven (I say it reverently), of an international God. It is blessed to be able to believe that God has no "chosen people" in the exclusive sense of the phrase ; the only proof which a people may possess that it is "chosen of God" is in its ability to bless all other peoples. Each has in turn been chosen to initiate some special policy of blessing for the race. There was a time when the fragments of the world

stood apart, isolated, separated each from all the rest by ranges of mountains, by stretches of desert, by boundless seas, by unbridged rivers, over and through which no pathway had been made. The skill, the ingenuity, the enterprise, the invention and the industry of man have bridged all the chasms which once separated the fragments of the world, and now, by tunnel, by bridge, by railway, by trans-oceanic ship, by electric cable, all of the geographical fragments have been brought together into a physical unity. To what end should the several countries of the world be joined if not to the sole end that their physical union should make the spiritual union of their people possible? It is the spiritual union of the peoples of the world which is at the heart of what we have come to call the Council idea. It is for the spiritual unity of all the nations of the earth that the International Council stands. In happy phrases our President has told us what magnanimity we need on this occasion. Each of us must endeavour to get the other nation's point of view. To my mind, we who come from countries under representative Governments, who boast of our liberality, are most emphatically called upon to prove ourselves genuine exponents of the fundamental principles of representative Government. And we who are accustomed to that phrase and to all that it implies, are more bound to make a steady effort to get the other nations' point of view than are the representatives of those countries whose peoples are under the absolute rule of unlimited monarchies. During the next few days I hope that our conscientious effort and our facility in shifting our point of view may be illustrated in the meetings of the Congress; but pre-eminently in all of the meetings, whether private or public, of the International Council. This effort to be generous to one another, and to be just to one another, is implied in our having entered into the International Bond. We of the Republic across the sea have found that there are two readings of democracy. We may have started out in our career as a nation with the first reading ever uppermost in the national mind, viz., "I am just as good as anyone." In the process of our evolution as a nation we have come to a better reading, and in this better reading the doctrine of democracy runs thus: "Everyone is just as good as I." We wish the representatives of Monarchies to be just to the representatives of Republics; more necessary, however, is it that the representatives of Republics shall be generous to the representatives of Monarchies. Recently, in my own country, we have learned how difficult it is for the

men and women of a Republic to be generous, or even just, in the interpretation of a monarch's motives. But no one can claim to be truly a representative of a true Republic until he is consciously called to be generous even to a Czar. This difficult lesson we have been set to study during the last few weeks. It is involved in a question which will be discussed amply at the Arbitration Meeting to-morrow night.

Only one other point do I wish to make in this brief address. I wish to emphasise the fact that the Council idea does not stand for the separation of women from men, but rather for the reunion of women with men in the consideration of great general principles and large public interests. I say reunion instead of union, since I think all of us who study the ancient poets and prophets know that in their minds men and women were united in the promotion of the common welfare, and in the conservation of the public weal. Although it is not my province to-day to speak for the Council of the United States, the President of that Council, who will shortly speak for it, responds to her title as President in the proud consciousness that within its membership of 1,250,000 souls there are about 125,000 men. This fact alone should make the few men present to-day feel themselves quite "at home." The Council idea leads us all to recognise the truth of words with which we have been long familiar, but the significance of which we are coming day by day more fully to realise. We are all used to being told that man was created in the image of God. What is it to be made in the Divine image? —the life, the heart, the mind, the work of a woman as well as the life, the heart, the mind and the work of a man must reflect the attributes of the Divine Father, and those attributes we have all as children learned are knowledge, wisdom, mercy, justice, love. All the nations of the earth are made of one blood and made in this image, and it is the function of the Council idea to compel us to bear ourselves one toward another, not merely one individual toward another individual, but one nation toward another nation, as if conscious of the fact that when we look into a brother's face we see the image of our own. We stand here at the close of the nineteenth century. Across the crest of the hill beyond which the twentieth century dawns we may see successive meetings of the International Council — meetings which shall be convened not with the assent of their formal representatives in only 10 countries with the fraternal presence of 17 countries more; but in that dawn I see, and as a part of it





BARONESS ALEXANDRA GRIPENBERG.

*Treasurer of the International Council of Women, 1893-1899.*

[To face p. 57.

I see, the International Council composed of men and women sitting as a permanent parliament, not for the adjudicature of differences and for the calming of dissensions, but for the promotion of consciously common interests, and approved by a united world.

**The President.**—Let me next present to you Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg, our Treasurer, who has had an anxious post to fill, seeing the funds at the command of the International Council are extremely limited. Although Baroness Gripenberg and I meet for the first time personally at this Congress, yet I feel her to be an old and tried friend, and I can assure you that she has served the Council faithfully since the day she was elected at Chicago. In all her journeys she has endeavoured to advance the Council idea, and from her knowledge of languages she has been able to bring it before the women of several continental countries, and to obtain much reliable information as to the position and prospect of the movement. In her own country—Finland—she is at the head of a splendid organisation—The Finnish Women's Union—which might well claim to be The National Council of Women of Finland, as, we trust, it will do some day.

Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg has been most efficiently represented at our Committee of Arrangements by Mrs Bedford Fenwick, but we are all glad to welcome our Treasurer here herself.

**Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg** (Treasurer) said: Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I must ask for your kind consideration for my bad English. Finland has no National Council of Women; but this is due to local and formal difficulties rather than to want of interest—difficulties on which I must not dwell here among the representatives of the nations that rule the world, and who would scarcely understand what it means to belong to the nations that must submit to the stronger. Still, I think that I may say that the women of Finland fully appreciate the idea of putting into practice the golden rule, “Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you.” The women of Finland, who are suffering bitterly from the absence of Christianity in politics, who have seen pledged oaths broken and illegal regulations enforced, only because the golden rule is *not* the leading principle of the world—should not they appreciate the idea of making it a living force and not a dead letter as hitherto? I think that I may say that the women of Finland hail with enthusiasm the thought that

humanity will not eternally abide on the principle of enduring with admirable patience other people's sufferings. And we hope that every injustice committed by the stronger against the weaker, be they individuals or nations, may remind of the keynote of our great Council idea, "Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you."

The President.—It is a source of great regret to me, a regret that will be shared by all the Council, that I cannot to-day introduce to you our Recording Secretary, Mme. Maria Martin, of France, who has taken such a warm interest in the affairs of the Council, but she is demonstrating at this moment the fact that Council women put home duties first, that they train their families to expect this of them. For the reason of Mme. Martin's detention lies in the fact that two of her daughters have chosen this very time for their weddings, and in spite of our own loss, I know that we shall all desire to unite in offering Mme. Martin our warm congratulations. Mme. Martin has been represented at our Committee of Arrangements very ably by Mrs Montefiore, and now at our Council meeting she deputes a French lady of much experience in women's work to represent her. Let me introduce to you Mme. Oddo Deflou, acting Recording Secretary.

Mme. Oddo Deflou, who appeared for Mme. Maria Martin (France), replied in French, expressing her regret that the recording secretary (Mme. Martin) was not able to fulfil her engagement, and her sense of appreciation in being chosen to fill so honourable a place.

J'apporte à votre Congrès les vœux des femmes de mon pays. Je les exprime au nom et à la place de Mme. Maria Martin, retenue à son foyer par d'importants devoirs de famille.

Bien mieux qualifiée que moi était Mme. Maria Martin pour vous parler aujourd'hui. Les services rendus par elle à la cause qui nous est chère ne se comptent plus; elle est, dans notre armée, une vétérante; je suis, relativement, une nouvelle recrue.

Je ne combats pas avec moins d'ardeur, et je trouve un puissant encouragément dans les progrès accomplis depuis vingt ans parmi nous. En France, en effet, il y a vingt ans, ce que nous appelons aujourd'hui le *mouvement féministe* pour ainsi dire n'exista pas. Personne ou presque personne ne s'était avisé de réclamer des améliorations à la condition des femmes; elle était restée telle que la fit, il y a cent ans, le Code Napoléon.



MADAME MARIA MARTIN.

*Recording Secretary of the International Council of Women,  
1893—1899.*

[To face p. 8.



Si quelques voix, comme celle de l'illustre Maria Deraismes, avaient osé s'élever en notre faveur, elles n'avaient trouvé que peu d'écho. La presse ne s'occupait pas de nous, et lorsque par hasard elle daignait condescendre à discuter nos prétentions, c'était pour s'efforcer d'y imprimer le stigmate de l'odieux ou du ridicule.

C'est dans ces conditions, c'est sur ce sol ingrat que nos premières émancipatrices travaillèrent. Sans argent, sans aucun des moyens d'action que donne un rang social élevé, mais par la seule puissance de leurs talents et de leur foi, elles défrichèrent ce terrain rebelle, couvert de ronces et d'épines. Gloire à ces vaillantes ! D'elles on peut dire avec vérité qu'elles surent faire quelque chose de rien.

Ce n'est pas que notre situation soit, même à présent, comparable à celle des femmes de l'Amérique ou de l'Angleterre. Loin de pouvoir, comme elles, réclamer avec quelque chance de succès nos droits politiques, nous en sommes encore à lutter péniblement pour la plupart de nos droits civils. Néanmoins, depuis vingt ans, des réformes nombreuses dans nos lois ont rendu notre sort plus tolérable, et nous estimons que, plus ces réformes ont été lentes et difficiles à obtenir, plus elles sont solidement établies.

Mais le changement le plus considérable est celui qui s'est opéré dans l'opinion. Les femmes, jusqu'alors indifférentes, se sont réveillées. De nombreuses associations se sont formées. Toute une presse féministe s'est créée. Les questions touchant nos intérêts et notre dignité sont chaque jour agitées, passionnément discutées ; les solutions qu'elles reçoivent nous sont de plus en plus favorables.

Nous avons donc mille raisons d'envisager l'avenir avec confiance. D'ailleurs nous comprenons très bien que, novices encore dans la pratique de la vie publique, nous avons besoin des encouragements, des leçons et de l'exemple de celles dont les succès ont de beaucoup dépassé les nôtres. Nous venons les chercher ici, espérant d'autre part que le tableau de nos efforts et des résultats que nous avons déjà obtenus ne sera pas, pour nos sœurs plus avancées et plus heureuses, indifférent. Ainsi de notre commun travail résultera un commun profit.

Il est une conviction profondément enracinée dans mon esprit et que je voudrais, en terminant, faire pénétrer dans tous les vôtres : c'est que notre sort est entre nos mains. Si le mot impossible n'est pas français, il est encore moins féminin. Oui,

ce que nous voulons, nous le pouvons. Il n'est pas admissible qu'un courage infatigable, q'une persévérance plus longue que tous les revers ne triomphent pas des plus grands obstacles. Soyons-en intérieurement persuadées et croyons, suivant l'expression d'une illustre Américaine qui a beaucoup contribué à l'émancipation de ses compatriotes, que le monde appartient à ceux qui savent le prendre.

**The President.**—The last officer whom I have to present is, though last, not least. Miss Teresa F. Wilson was appointed corresponding secretary when the health of the able secretary appointed at Chicago, Mrs Eva M'Laren, obliged her to resign her post, to our great regret. Miss Wilson had already paid visits to several of our Councils on my behalf, and had gathered together much information concerning the work. She was, therefore, no stranger to the Councils when, on Mrs M'Laren's nomination, she was appointed the latter's successor by the Executive.

It would be difficult for me to begin to describe all that Miss Wilson has done for this Council and Congress—it would be difficult for me to tell you what she has not done. Those who have had occasion to see something of the inner working of the Council office during the past year alone realise, and they but faintly, what the organisation of this Congress has meant to our corresponding secretary. But the appearance of this hall to-day, and the signs of success which are visible on every side, are her best reward, and we shall unite in offering her our thanks and congratulations.

Miss T. F. Wilson, in response, acknowledged the kind words of the President, and said: I must frankly admit that of all the work that has fallen to my share in connection with this Congress, that of appearing on this platform is the most arduous. My work has been simply that of a machine in endeavouring to collect and prepare for the members of this great Congress, and I am afraid you will note many defects in the machine. To all I desire to express my heartfelt thanks and greetings, but especially to those new friends whom I have made during these last few months through the medium of letters, but whom I now see face to face. Let me assure you that I will do my utmost to forward the comfort and conveniences of the Council and Congress during its meeting.

The President said she would now have much pleasure in presenting to the meeting the Presidents of the various Councils.



MISS TERESA F. WILSON.

*Corresponding Secretary of the International Council of Women, 1896-1899.  
Re-elected Corresponding Secretary, 1899.*

[To face p. 60.

woman and a reformer. As for myself, I am simply a hewer of wood and a drawer of water; but nobody was ever so proud of drawing water and hewing wood as I was when I got up a meeting for Elizabeth Cady Stanton. There were, besides, two other women pioneers who were in London fifty years ago. They decided to get up a Women's Rights Convention. They advocated an equality for women similar to that which had been got for men. I refer to two representative Bright women—Mrs Maclaren and Mrs Bright Lucas. At their meeting was passed the first resolution, out of which had grown the wonderful meeting of to-day. Resolutions were passed in favour of women coming together in a great International Council, and they had thought about it year by year. Forty years ago, when we looked around, there was nothing done for women, there was not even a women's temperance union. We now venture to very modestly assume that the Women's Suffrage Association of the United States is the mother of all the different associations in all the different countries. Fifty-seven national organisations of the United States sent delegates to the meeting held at Washington to initiate, at the instance of Mrs Sewall, the movement for something material, permanent and growing. From the beginning then resolved upon, the International Council was now a thoroughly mature organisation. Great Britain had the honour of supplying its first President in the person of Mrs Fawcett; and now Lady Aberdeen is its head, so that Great Britain might be said to be in the forefront of the movement. Now we are organised, we must simply go forward until we get every nationality on the face of the globe organised into a National Council and affiliated with the International Council. That is the work which lies before us in the week which is to come. We must try to educate every woman and every man too—for we do not despair of men quite altogether—into the knowledge that hitherto women who thought alike on every subject, or on one subject, have organised themselves together in the best way they were capable of; but now the time has come for women who think very differently indeed to come together to take lessons of each other, and learn to think a great deal less of the "I" and a great deal more of the "you," and to do their best to each other. What we need most of all in our mutual relations is that we should understand and recognise the good work done by others.

The President.—The Rev. Anna Howard Shaw is the second

delegate for the United States, and as one who has acted as vice-president for the U.S.A. Council, and who has advanced its cause by her eloquent advocacy in all parts of the States, we could not welcome a co-worker more fitted to help the International Council with counsel and advice.

**Miss Shaw** responded to the introduction and bowed to the audience.

**The President.**—The next lady whom I have the honour to present to you is my dear friend, Mrs Boomer, who has done me the favour of representing me in my capacity of President of the National Council of Women of Canada. Mrs Boomer is a true daughter of the British Empire, which she has ever served faithfully, whether living in England or in the early days of colonial settlement, whether in the Great West of Canada or in the wilds of South Africa. Her name is a name to conjure with amongst our Councils in Canada, and I know that before this International Council brings its meetings to an end that her value as a co-worker will be well established.

**Mrs Boomer**, as substitute for Lady Aberdeen, President of the Canadian National Council of Women, said, in acknowledging the greetings extended to the Canadian branch of the International Council of Women, that she was proud of the honoured position it held as second only upon the list of National Councils, that very position being a token that the women of Canada had been quick to recognise the power for good which must naturally result from organised and united effort, "The union of all for the good of all, and God over all," a motto which best conveyed the true meaning of what is called the Council idea.

The previous speaker had said she represented the women of America, giving statistics to prove their almost overwhelming numbers, but she had added, as if it were only an afterthought, that in those numbers she included the women of Canada. "Now," said Mrs Boomer, "whilst we women of Canada are glad to fall into line with our sisters of the United States, to follow as best we can their usually most excellent example, and to recognise in them their many admirable qualities, individually and nationally, still *Canada is Canada*, and not a mere promontory jutting out from the United States, nor are the women of Canada likely to rest content with a mere *post scriptum* mention as being amongst 'the women of America.' I am sure," she added, "that this little explanation will be taken in good part and my motive in making it not misunderstood."

Mrs Boomer said that the secretary's report would in due course give details of the success which had crowned many of the efforts of the Canadian National Council, so she would not occupy precious moments, now fast slipping away, in more than the barest allusion to a very few of them.

The Canadian National Council had, by appeals to its Provincial and Dominion Parliaments, and to its several local municipal authorities, obtained many concessions which must bear valuable fruit now and hereafter. It had obtained the introduction of manual training in many centres where it had not been hitherto included in the school curriculum; and in the same way the appointment of women school trustees; it had wrought desirable changes in arrangements for women prisoners; it had organised boards of associated charities, established hospitals in some of the smaller localities, checked the flow of impure literature and promoted the circulation of pure and healthy reading matter; it had inaugurated home reading unions, taken steps for the protection of women and children, instituted inquiries into the conditions of working women, had obtained the appointment of women factory inspectors with a view to the remedy of existing evils, is co-operating with medical authorities in spreading valuable knowledge on the subject of the treatment of consumption, and has, amongst other educational efforts, promoted systematic instruction in art design adaptable to industries and manufactures which could open up any field for the self-supporting occupation of women. Above and beyond this, the formation of the National Council of Women in Canada had, to use the words of its President, "tended to increase unity and mutual understanding, to bring together and blend in common work the most earnest women of every place, irrespective of creed, class, political party or race," and in so doing had happily not only been enabled to live down nearly all the misconceptions formed of its aims and objects when it first was founded, but it had won the hearty support and actual co-operation of some of the most intelligent and influential men in Canada. "But," asked the speaker, "for how much of the realisation of our hopes and the reward which has crowned our efforts are we not indebted not only to our beloved President, Lady Aberdeen, but also to Lord Aberdeen, so lately the honoured Governor-General of Canada? They were, both by example and precept, the very life and soul of the National Council of Women of Canada. Lady Aberdeen, as President of the International Council, welcomes

“her own” to England. She is still “our President,” and in thanking her for her greeting on behalf of her fellow-workers and her own, I would say, that the seed she planted in our hearts being a righteous seed, a seed blessed by many prayers, we may surely rest assured that the harvest field of Canada, with its women sowers and reapers, will yet bear golden fruit to her rejoicing, and to God’s honour and glory.”

**The President.**—Our Canadian delegates are:—

1. **Mrs Willoughby Cummings**, who has been Corresponding Secretary since the formation of the Canadian Council, and who is largely responsible for the formation of that Council; and

2. **Mrs Frank Gibbs**, also one of the first to move for a Canadian Council, and who is one of our most popular and earnest speakers and workers.

**The President.**—It is evident that time will not permit me to make the separate introduction which I should like to offer to all our delegates and vice-presidents who have gathered together from so many lands to day. But the clock is inexorable; we have to remember that we have another engagement to-night. I think, therefore, I shall best consult the convenience of this meeting if I call on the Presidents of Councils to give us a few words of greeting and simply ask the delegates to step forward and bow, so that you may then commence your acquaintance with them. And then we shall hope for a few words from our honorary Vice-Presidents, who are forwarding our interests in countries where there are no Councils as yet, and from our fraternal representatives. Let me then present to you, as the delegates from Germany,—

**Frau Anna Simson**, who was one of the first German women to take up the Council, who represents the President Fräulein Augusta Schmidt, whom we greatly regret not to see amongst us.

**Frau Bieber Boehm**, the Secretary of the Council, who was deputed to convey the greetings of the German Council, offered to the Congress the best greetings of the women of the country. “Let us all,” she added, “join in promoting the application of the golden rule to society, custom and law, and so make our Council a true success.”

**Frau Marie Stritt**, one of the vice-presidents of the German Council, was presented as the second official delegate.

**The President.**—I have now the great pleasure of introducing to you Fru Retzius, the able President of the Swedish National Council.

**Fru Anna Hierta-Retzius (Sweden).**

**LADY ABERDEEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—**As President of the Swedish National Council of Women I have the honour to bring you the greetings of the women of Sweden, and to assure you that the women of our country feel a deep interest in the important questions and problems which are occupying the attention of the International Council of Women.

These problems are not new in our country. We can trace them back to remote times, to the beginning of history, as our Vikings sailed around the European coasts, as they visited and settled in the islands of Great Britain.

We trace them more clearly still in the time of our King Magnus Ladulas, and of Birger Jarl, the founder of our capital, Stockholm.

In the home and social life the Swedish woman in those remote times already occupied a high position. While the husbands and sons were fighting abroad in the "härnadstög" and the long wars the women took care of the land, the agriculture, the economy, and sometimes even administered the law.

Thus we know that in the thirteenth century the holy Birgitta, whose husband was Chief Justice, helped him in the administration of the law, which she is said to have known as well as himself.

Birgitta married at the age of 14, and had already, as a young wife, to manage 500 dependents.

And Christina Gyllenstjerna, the cousin of our greatest king, Gustavus I. Vasa, has, in the beginning of the sixteenth century, shown how a woman can, like a Jeanne d'Arc, with energy and talent, lead the defence of a whole country against foreign intruders.

Already, in early times in Sweden, the sister had the right to inherit the half in proportion to the brother, and in one Swedish province—Varend—equally with the brother.

It is true that we had to wait for centuries until this latter principle became the ruling in our country, but since the year 1845 it is *law*.

The progress of the emancipation of woman has, in our century, advanced with great steps.

Since the Swedish authoress, Fredrika Bremer, wrote her renowned novels, a remarkable change has taken place in public opinion concerning the duties and rights of women.

I may say, to the honour of the Swedish men, that this progress has been won without great opposition or struggle. Eminent Members of Parliament, among others Mr P. A. Siljeström, my father, Lars Hierta, Baron Oskar Stackelberg, Baron A. Fock, the Minister, Gunnar Wennerberg, Mr F. Borg, Mr Adolf Hedin, Count Hugo Hamilton, etc., have fought successfully for the rights of women. In 1870 women were admitted to our universities, and in 1873 they were allowed to take the same degrees in medicine and in arts as male students. Now they are also admitted to many other professions.

Notwithstanding this progress, there are yet several rights that the Swedish women are deprived of, and wish to work for, and several wrongs that ought to be abolished. As, for instance, concerning the property of married women, we are not so advanced as the women of England.

There are several questions pertaining to social and political life which will be treated at this Congress, such as Education, the Ethics of Wage-earning, the Political and Local Rights of Women, problems which it is of great importance to solve, in order to ameliorate the future of humanity.

Every new era gives rise to new questions and problems. Congresses of this kind are of great value in dealing with them.

I therefore beg, on behalf of my countrywomen, to present their sincere congratulations at the opening of this Conference.

We have come here to become personally acquainted with the large-hearted and gifted women from other countries who are united on this great occasion.

We have, above all, come to acquire knowledge, experience and wisdom from this country of Great Britain, where the social and political position of woman is more advanced than in most civilised countries.

Fröken Gertrud Adelborg and Fröken Ellen Whitlock, Secretary of the Swedish Council, were introduced as the two official delegates for the National Council of Women of Sweden.

Mrs Alfred Booth, the President of the Council for Great Britain and Ireland, was unable to be present, so her place was filled by Lady Battersea. She asked the Congress to allow her, in the lamented absence of Mrs Booth, to address a very warm word of welcome to the members of the Congress. It was, indeed, a matter of regret, both to herself and the members of the Council, that their beloved President was unable to be present with them that day. She always took a keen interest

in the work of the Council, and had looked forward keenly to meeting so many women of other lands who were working for the good of their people. She had always rejoiced in the thought of an interchange of opinion with so many kindred spirits. Representing Mrs Booth as she did, she (Lady Battersea) extended the right hand of fellowship to those members of the Congress who had responded in such numbers, and she wished all success to the Congress. She wondered if any of the ladies had remarked on the strange coincidence that on the very day on which they were opening their Congress the Imperial Parliament were going to discuss another branch of the women question.

**Mrs Creighton**, wife of the Bishop of London, and **Lady Laura Ridding**, wife of the Bishop of Southwell, were introduced as the two official delegates for the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

**Mrs D. P. E. Armitage** (New South Wales) said : I very much regret that our President is unable to be with us to-day. New South Wales, I need hardly remind you, is a country which is situated very nearly at the other end of the earth. It is 12,000 miles from Great Britain. But though we are far away in distance, we are near in heart, loyalty and feeling with the mother country. After New South Wales the next idea which comes is naturally relative to the great question of Federation. You all know by recent telegrams that the Federal Bill has been passed by the New South Wales Parliament. I do not want to glory in the idea, but I am very proud that it has been given to New South Wales to lead the way with the Federal idea—an idea which is embodied with the Federal Council of Women, and likewise the International Council of Women. I have very much pleasure in greeting all those who are attending the Congress.

**Mrs Dixson** was presented as the second official delegate from New South Wales.

**Fröken Henrie Forchammer** (Denmark), representing Fröken Ida Falbe Hansen (President), said : Ladies and Gentlemen of the Congress, I have very much to be grateful for to-day. As the representative of the President of the National Council of Women of one of the smallest countries of the world, I should like to take this opportunity to point out the fact that this Council is one of the few places, if not the only place, where smaller nations are on an equality with the greater countries, and where their vote

is as important. We of the smaller National Councils cannot help showing how deep is our appreciation of the work. Gladly do we join heart and soul in the work. I offer the best wishes, in the name of our Council, and in the name of our President, to this Congress.

**Fru Charlotte Norrie**, Corresponding Secretary of the Danish Council, and **Fröken Wilhelmina Berup** were introduced as the two official delegates from Denmark.

**Mme. Klerck van Hogendorp**, President of the National Council of Women of Holland, made a few remarks. "In my country we are not quick to grasp a new idea, but having once got hold of one, we are slow to relinquish it. Interchange of thought and welcome is bound to do good, and to bring out all that was good. We feel deeply indebted to Lady Aberdeen, and to the other ladies of England, for the hearty welcome extended to us. On behalf of Holland I express heartfelt thanks for the efforts made to better the conditions of women in all countries."

**Mrs M. W. H. Rutgers Hoitsema** and **Miss Martina G. Kramers** were presented as the two official delegates from Holland.

**Lady Hamilton**, representing Lady Gormanstown, President, as delegate of the newly-formed Council of Tasmania, also addressed the meeting, and said that the six years she worked with the women in Tasmania she met with the greatest co-operation and sympathy. Of all places in the world none were more worthy than Tasmania of being represented at the Congress.

**Mrs Dobson**, from Tasmania, said that though Holland was only a baby branch, the one she represented was younger still, for it was only born the very day before she left Tasmania.

**Mrs Reeves**, wife of the Agent-General for New Zealand, who was to have presented the greetings of the New Zealand National Council, was unfortunately prevented from being present by indisposition.

**Mrs Sidney Webb** and **Mrs McCosh Clarke** were called on as the two official delegates appointed by the New Zealand National Council.

**The President.**—We now hope to hear a few words of greeting from our honorary Vice-Presidents and Honorary Representatives, on whom we largely depend for the future development of our work, and I think our Vice-Presidents of the countries of this continent would like me to call on the ladies who represent the far-away countries to speak first. As the sense of the meet-

ing evidently points in that direction, I will ask our honorary Vice-President for China, Madame Shen, who was appointed through the medium of the Chinese Ambassador in England, and who herself is a member of a very distinguished family, to give us a message from the women of China.

Mme. Shen, the Hon. Vice-President for China, who came in the costume of a Chinese lady of high rank, and who was accompanied by her husband, spoke through the medium of her interpreter, Mr Yen: I found, on coming to London, that the idea is very prevalent among Europeans that women in China do not count for anything. And this refers not to the conduct of the national affairs only but to that of their own households; it seems to be thought that they have no voice in the education of their own children.

Now this impression is entirely erroneous, and seems to be founded on the equally erroneous idea that Chinese women are of less importance than the women of other countries.

It would be easy to point to numberless instances in which Chinese women have rendered notable services to their country, but I would refer to only one, and that a case that occurred in my own family. My father-in-law, Shen Pao Chen, late Viceroy of Nanking, was beholden in no small degree to his wife for the high position in the State to which he attained.

During the Taiping Rebellion, whilst yet a mandarin of comparatively insignificant position, he had to leave the city, of which he was the governor, in order to raise soldiers to defend it against any attack.

During his absence on this mission a sudden descent was made on the city by the rebels, and everyone thought its capture was a matter of hours. At this moment the wife of the governor appeared on the scene and encouraged the feeble garrison to hold out; at the same time she wrote to a general stationed at some distance, urging him to come to her assistance with the forces under his command. The letter, which still exists, was a masterpiece of composition and a model of style to be imitated. Every argument likely to work on the feelings of the general and arouse him to action was employed, and in proof of the urgency of the situation, in place of ink it was written with her own blood. Her eloquent and touching appeal was effective, the general hastened to her assistance with his troops, and the city was saved.

This is only one of thousands of instances in which Chinese



MADAME SHEN.

*Hon. Vice-President for China.*

(Photo by Lafayette.)

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women have contributed to the advancements of their husbands, and rendered important service to the State, and showed that Chinese women, far from being the feeble, shiftless creatures they are supposed to be, are, in fact, as brave, devoted and full of resource as the women of other lands. Like other women they rule their own households, attend to the education of their children, whose characters are formed by the precepts placed before them ; they participate in the troubles and trials which not unfrequently come to their husbands, encouraging and supporting them in the divers conflicts out of which they hope one day to rise to a position of power and importance.

I hope that these remarks may be the means of removing some of the false impressions as to the condition of women in China, which I find to be so common in this country.

The President then called on Mrs F. A. Steel to speak for the women of India, who were represented on the platform by Miss Marie Bhor, a Parsee lady now studying at Oxford, and several other Indian ladies in native dress, who had been brought together for the occasion by the kind assistance of Miss Manning.

**Mrs Flora Annie Steel**, representing India, said : Any small elation which I might have felt to-day on having been chosen, even as an honorary vice-president, to represent our vast Indian Empire, fades before my knowledge of my utter unworthiness for the post assigned to me. What right have I, one small woman, to represent 300,000,000 of my fellow-creatures ? It is a task beyond even a woman's tongue. And yet if love, if admiration, if pity and sympathy of the women amongst whom it has been my privilege to pass the greater number of the years of my life count for anything, I do not stand here to-day upon this platform utterly unaccredited. I know that while I face the accumulated wisdom of the West I have behind me the hoarded wisdom of the East—of a civilisation which has lasted far longer than ours. The greatest master of the English tongue has told us of a quality that blesses both him that gives and him that takes. It is out of that quality of mercy reaching out to the uttermost ends of the earth, yet sitting down at the hearthstone of the home, which it is the privilege and the power of this Congress to promote. And so, without the slightest fear, I, representing all those women of the East—the women who live in the land of the rising sun—reach out my hands to the women of the setting sun, knowing that by doing

so I shall consolidate that vast Indian Empire which every English man and English woman hopes and prays may last, and hopes and prays that upon it the great sun of righteousness and truth and mercy may never set.

**Mrs Neilson Hamilton** said it gave her the greatest pleasure to represent Persia at the International Council of Women, and that she would do her best to tell the women of Persia about the Council.

**Dr Cecilia Grierson**, of the Argentine Republic, said it gave her great pleasure in meeting representatives of all the world who had come together with the object of contributing to the welfare of humanity. She admired England for its liberal institutions, which gave such scope to women. She also came from a country where liberty existed. Their land, their riches and their institutions were open to the whole world ; everybody could follow his or her own religion or principles with complete independence. Owing mainly to that liberty, their people spoke two or three languages, and were more broad-minded than many peoples. They assimilated all that was good, without asking from what corner of the world it came. In Argentina the women were ever to the front in every charitable and benevolent movement. She presented her congratulations to the Congress, especially those members who were specially known since the last meeting of Congress by their words and works.

**Mme. von Finkelstein Mountford** (Palestine) said that it gave her great pleasure to represent Palestine at that Congress. She was standing there before them representing the most ancient country on the face of the earth, and she brought them greeting from the city of Jerusalem, where she had the privilege of being born and entirely brought up. Perhaps they would pardon her for being very patriotic. She was patriotic for all nations, because she was herself an international. She stood there as a cosmopolitan of the globe. By blood she was a Russian, by birth she was a Turk, born in a Mohammedan land, and having for foster-mother a Mohammedan Arab woman ; by adoption she was an American, and by marriage she became an Englishwoman. So she represented there, as she ought, having been born and brought up in the city of Jerusalem, all the nations on the face of the earth. It was from that city in which she was born that she brought them greeting. With Sir Walter Scott she would say,—





MADAME ISABELLE BOGELOT.

(Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur.)

*Hon. Vice-President of the International Council for France.*

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"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself has said,  
This is my own, my native land."

As Palestine was the most ancient country of the world, so Jerusalem, the cradle of our religion, was the mother of them all. Though Jerusalem had for ages sat in sackcloth and in ashes, yet her spirit was not dead, and soon, Phœnix-like, she would again rise from her ashes and be again a lasting joy unto the whole world. In Jerusalem to-day they spoke thirty-six languages, and at the next Congress they would, without doubt, have as many as thirty-six representatives from Jerusalem. They were, as it were, an epitome of the whole world. The three prominent religions in their city were the Jewish, the Mohammedan and the Christian, and in those three great religions they must remember that they were cradled in the last. The Christian religion was born in Jerusalem, and therefore they had a claim upon the Holy City in every shape and form. Then their gracious Queen ruled over a greater number of Mohammedans than the Sultan of Turkey did to-day. It was interesting to remember the proverb which said, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world," and that no nation could rise above the spirit of its women. Palestine to-day was, as it were, a land of bondage, not because her women are not capable of greater things, but for the simple reason that they were not vouchsafed an opportunity for action ; they were simply ornaments, and consequently there was in their land an existing state of bondage. During the last ten months which she had passed there she had been endeavouring to infuse into the women the meaning and the scope of the Congress, and as soon as the message has reached the Far East they would be able to exclaim with Micah, "The kingdom shall come again to the daughters of women." They had not met together to discuss religious questions and religious dogmas, but their relationship with each other. There was one thing which joined them together, there was one touch of nature which made the whole world kin, and that was the relationship of the mother and the child. And the child was the father to the man.

Mme. Bogelot, Honorary Vice - President for France, and Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur, was heartily welcomed by the President, and said : Mme. Président, Ladies and Gentlemen, please excuse me. I cannot address you my thanks and compliments in English, so, if you will permit it, I will speak in French.

Mesdames, Messieurs,—Depuis le jour où ma bonne étoile m'a conduite en Amérique, en 1888, que d'étapes ont été franchies dans le chemin qui conduira la femme à la réelle connaissance de ses droits, et de ses devoirs ; envers elle-même, sa famille et la société en général. Les succès remportés pas à pas et chaque jour développent de plus en plus, en elle, le sentiment de la responsabilité de ses actes.

Elle a compris que pour donner la mesure complète de sa valeur intellectuelle et morale, il lui fallait une liberté consciente qui ne s'acquiert que par le développement de la volonté et un travail personnel et persévérant.

En 1888, quand je me rendis à Washington, j'étais un simple soldat de la cause ; et aujourd'hui grâce à votre estime, à vos encouragements et à la grande confiance que j'ai eue en vous toutes, je puis parler dans cette assemblée au nom de mes compatriotes, les Françaises. Je suis même une Vice-Présidente honoraire de votre congrès puisque vous m'avez gracieusement offert ce titre dont je suis très touchée et très fière. Il existe encore, hélas, dans tous les pays des personnes réfractaires à nos désirs de revendications.

Elles sont effrayées des choses que nous demandons.

Plaignons-les, mais ne les blâmons pas.

Nous sommes tous plus ou moins ignorants de beaucoup de choses et ce n'est que l'étude approfondie des questions et la persévérence dans le travail qui éclairent les esprits et font posséder des convictions sincères et durables.

Instruisons-nous donc mutuellement et qui sait si notre exemple ne convertira pas même nos plus terribles adversaires, qui pourront peut-être devenir à leur tour, nos plus zélés collaborateurs.

Quoique la loi du progrès exige que nous regardions toujours en avant il est impossible à mon âge de ne pas jeter un regard en arrière.

Mon passé est si long déjà ! Que d'amis disparus durant les dix dernières années écoulées.

Que de deuils peuvent assombrir nos coeurs et faire couler nos larmes !

Que de noms se pressent en foule sur mes lèvres !

Je n'en nommerai pourtant aucun. Ces noms aimés vous les entendrez. Ils seront prononcés dans les travaux présentés en sections.

Ce serait une erreur de croire que ces amis sont perdus pour

nous. Nous vivons avec eux par le souvenir et la reconnaissance. Et nous restons toujours sous l'impression de leur bienfaisante influence.

Au nom de mes collègues et en mon nom personnel j'adresse un hommage bien sincère aux amies éloignées retenues dans leurs foyers par l'âge, la maladie ou des devoirs qui s'imposent à elles.

Je serre la main, par la pensée à vous toutes, mesdames les travailleuses de tous les pays.

Aux jeunes femmes qui nous entourent et nous écoutent nous venons confier la cause si belle pour laquelle nous luttons depuis de longues années.

Les ouvrières de la première heure ont défriché le terrain. Elles ont tracé la route dans laquelle nous marchons à leur suite.

A nous de les imiter, d'avoir leur foi pour assurer le succès final.

Achevons l'œuvre si bien commencée. Que l'homme et la femme marchent désormais ensemble, dans la vie en s'aidant.

Qu'ils aient tous les deux le même idéal de morale et de justice.

Le bonheur de l'humanité réside dans cette harmonie que nous cherchons à réaliser par le grand travail que nous faisons dans ce Congrès, en union d'esprit et de cœur.

**Mlle. Camille Vidart**, Hon. Vice-President for Switzerland, conveyed a cordial greeting from the women of Switzerland, and told how the Swiss women were organising a National Council which they hoped would be in a position to federate with the International Council before very long. The account that she would be able to take back of this great gathering would greatly help them.

**Mlle. Marie Popelin**, Hon. Vice-President of Belgium, said she was anxious to manifest the sympathy felt by her country-women with women of all nations, and especially with all branches of the movement in aid of women's suffrage. When she undertook to represent her country, Belgium, she hardly realised what a splendid sight this gathering of women would be. It was a most gratifying spectacle to see so many women workers in various spheres, all engaged in advancing the common cause of women's rights. Those who had organised this Congress with such order might certainly be proud of their success. These great days of the London Congress would mark a glorious epoch in the history of the women's rights question. In her own name, then,

as well as in that of the women of Belgium, she congratulated the movers in this noble cause.

**Mrs Crawshay**, representing the Hon. Vice-President for Italy, the Countess Taverna, said that she came before them with some diffidence, seeing that there were present three Italian ladies who were far abler than she of voicing the cause of Italy's women to them. She came to them simply with a message of congratulation from the half-formed Council in Rome—a message which she now delivered to them with all the Italian warmth of which she was mistress.

**Dr Kosakevitch-Stephanofskiaia**, Delegate for Russia, representative of Mme. Anne de Philosoff, Hon. Vice-President, said that Russian women welcomed with enthusiasm the bonds of unity between women of all nations which had been exhibited by this gathering. Russian women wished to join women of other nations in seeking for possibilities of wide culture in order that they might help to achieve economic and social reform. Russia hoped that success would crown the efforts made at this International Congress, and that women would unite for the good, not only of their own sex, but of humanity at large.

**Frau Marianne Hainisch**, Hon. Vice-President for Austria, expressed the hope that the women of Austria would follow the good example set by the prime movers of this Congress.

**Fröken Gina Krog**, Hon. Vice-President for Norway, said she had the honour of conveying to the Congress the friendly greetings from the women of Norway. As soon as they had knowledge enough of the International Council, and of the blessings it would bring to any nation, she was sure they would embrace the idea with all their hearts.

**Mme. Féresse Deraismes**, a veteran worker, asked permission to read an address of greeting from the women composing the Société pour l'Amélioration du Sort de la Femme.

Nous soussignés, Membres du Conseil d'administration de la Société pour l'Amélioration du Sort de la Femme et la Revendication de ses Droits, dont le siège social est à Paris, rue Cardinet, No. 72.

Déclarons que, selon le Procès-Verbal de la Réunion du Conseil de la Société, sur la proposition à elle faite par sa Présidente en vue de la représentation de la Société au Congrès de Londres projeté pour le mois de Juin 1899, la Société a

voté avec acclamation et applaudissements les deux propositions suivantes :

1. La Société consultée adhère au Congrès de Londres proposé, selon les programmes et règlements publiés ;

2. Il déliege, avec pleins pouvoirs pour la représenter, sa Présidente, Mme. Féresse-Deraismes, à laquelle se pourront joindre les différents Membres du Conseil qui voudront bien l'accompagner de leur plein gré.

Pour l'Extrait du Procès-Verbal dont il s'agit,

Et pour la Société,

Les Membres du Bureau Soussignés,

OLGA PETTI.

VVE FÉRESSE-DERAISMES.

LINA LINDSON.

LOUISE BARBEROUSSE.

**Mrs Gawler**, representing South Australia, said the women of the Colony would be glad to federate in the International Council, as they had worked for federation in Australia. They had the credit of carrying federation in the Colony by their votes, for they had woman's suffrage.

**Mrs Wittenoom**, representing West Australia, said she felt sure members of the various women's organisations in the Colony would freely endorse the wish of the Council in their efforts to do good. She would take steps to let them know of the work, and she hoped before long to have a National Council in Australia.

**Mrs Fisher**, representing Queensland, said : I don't know what to think of this marvellous movement. All I can say is I will take it back to my people.

**Mrs Stewart** (Cape Colony) said a great advance had been made during the past thirty years in the work of education, and in various provinces of Christian and missionary work. The time had come for these various agencies to be thoroughly well organised, and become effective and efficient branches of the great union.

**Miss Agnes Slack**, Fraternal Representative of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, said it gave her great pleasure to bring to the great audience of representative women from all parts of the world the greetings of an international society as the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union is, representing an organisation of women from Iceland to

New Zealand, and from India to the eastern and western shores of America. That afternoon she had been reminded again and again of the founder of the institution to which she belonged. She referred to the woman, many of whom present regarded as the very queen of the womanhood of the world, as Frances Willard. Many of them were proud to look up to her as an American woman, and as the great queen of the womanhood of the world. She (Miss Slack) had been asked by women of every quarter of the world to represent them at the Congress owing to the fact that their President, as Lady Henry Somerset is, could not come. They regarded it as the highest luxury to be able to live in affectionate intercourse one with another, and they had learnt in the World's Union the great value of international communion. She should like to say how very much her organisation appreciated the great work being done for women by the International Council of Women. They felt that if one organisation lifted up women it helped all others, and in that sense the World's Union had been greatly helped. Before she resumed her seat she should like to express her personal indebtedness to Lady Aberdeen for the great assistance she had given her when in America. All the members of the organisation which she (the speaker) represented were proud of Lady Aberdeen.

**Miss Ellen Robinson**, Fraternal Representative of the Bureau International Permanent de la Paix, said she was commissioned by her Bureau to bring fraternal greetings to the Council. She trusted that the Council would continue day by day to dissipate the prejudice which often existed between nation and nation, and led to those wars against which her society were continually struggling. They were also glad to send greetings to a Council of women, because it was to the women of the world that her Bureau looked forward to help in their work. Those who had committed to their care and charge the nurture of life, surely they would be false to their trust if they did not unite in furthering the cause of peace and friendship and justice amongst the nations, rather than supporting what was called the "glory of war." Before sitting down she should like to say that her Bureau did exactly what the Council of Women were trying to do for the councils of Europe. It is a Bureau established in the town of Berne, where they had a library containing all the works in connection with the Peace Movement. There they had an International Committee, which met once or twice a year to

discuss the different questions, and to form a link between the various societies throughout Europe.

**Mme. de Tscharner de Watteville** (Fraternal Representative of the Union Internationale des Amies de la Jeune Fille) said she fully realised the great honour which was hers in being called upon to address that important Congress. How often was it not the case that when some mischief had been done, where the news of some sad occurrence was brought to their ears, they heard the remark, "Cherchez la femme." She fervently trusted that one of the immediate results of that Congress would be the radical changing of one of the most frequently uttered remarks of the world, that a new dictum would take the place of that observation, and that wherever some good work, some pure deed of love had been done, people would say, "Surely some woman has been at work here."

**Mrs Cynthia Westover Alden** (Fraternal Representative of the International League of Press Clubs) said that she brought them the best and heartiest wishes of the International Press Union and organisations, not of women only ; she was before them as the delegate of the Press Clubs of both men and women writers. If they wished to know what the Press did, they had only to cast their eyes on the table in that hall set apart for the newspaper representatives. Judging from the number of journalists present, she would imagine that the proceedings that day would be found reported on the morrow, and she would suggest that they purchased every publication issued in London.

The proceedings then closed.

# FIRST BUSINESS SESSION OF THE QUINQUENNIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL.

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COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.

*WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, MORNING.*

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THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN in the Chair.

THE President, the Countess of Aberdeen, after calling the meeting to order, said that, as the agenda of business was a very long one, she would not take up the time of the meeting by any opening remarks, but would call upon Miss Wilson, the Corresponding Secretary, to call the roll, when the following members of Council answered their names:—

The Countess of Aberdeen, *President*; Mrs May Wright Sewall, *Vice-President-at-Large*; Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg, *Treasurer*; Miss T. F. Wilson, *Corresponding Secretary*.

## NATIONAL COUNCILS.

UNITED STATES—Mrs Fannie Humphreys Gaffney (*President*), Miss Susan B. Anthony, Miss Shaw. CANADA—Mrs Boomer (representing the *President*, the Countess of Aberdeen), Mrs Willoughby Cummings, Mrs Gibbs. GERMANY—Frau Anna Simson (representing the *President*, Fräulein Auguste Schmidt), Frau Bieber Boehm, Frau Marie Stritt. SWEDEN—Fru Hierta Retzius (*President*), Fröken Gertrud Adelborg, Fröken Ellen

Whitlock. **GREAT BRITAIN**—Lady Battersea (representing the *President*, Mrs Alfred Booth), Lady Laura Ridding, Mrs Creighton. **NEW SOUTH WALES**—Mrs Armitage (representing the *President*, the Viscountess Hampden), Mrs Dixson. **DENMARK**—Fröken Henrie Forchammer, Fru Charlotte Norrie, Fröken Wilhelmina Rerup. **HOLLAND**—Mme. Klerck van Hogendorp (*President*), Mme. Rutgers-Hoitsema, Miss Martina Kramers. **NEW ZEALAND**—Mrs M'Cosh Clarke, Mrs Sidney Webb, Mrs Pember Reeves (representing the *President* of the New Zealand Council, Mrs Sheppard, was prevented from attending all Council meetings through illness). **TASMANIA**—Lady Hamilton (representing the *President*, Lady Gormanstown), Mrs Dobson.

#### HON. VICE-PRESIDENTS.

**FINLAND**—Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg. **BELGIUM**—Mlle. Marie Popelin. **SWITZERLAND**—Mlle. Camille Vidart. **ITALY**—Mrs Crawshay. **RUSSIA**—Dr Kosakevitch-Stephanofskaya. **AUSTRIA**—Frau Marianne Hainisch. **NORWAY**—Fröken Gina Krog. **FRANCE**—Mme. Bogelot, Mlle. Sarah Monod (*Hon. Representative*). **VICTORIA**—Janet, Lady Clarke. **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**—Mrs Gawler. **WEST AUSTRALIA**—Mrs Wittenoom. **QUEENSLAND**—Mrs Fisher. **CAPE COLONY**—Mrs Stewart, Mrs Nixon (*Hon. Representative*). **INDIA**—Mrs Flora Annie Steele. **PERSIA**—Mrs Neilson Hamilton. **ARGENTINE REPUBLIC**—Dr Cecilia Grierson. **CHINA**—Mrs Shen. **PALESTINE**—Mme. v. Finkelstein Mountford.

A number of letters, telegrams of greeting, and some apologies for absence were read by the Corresponding Secretary.

#### MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

The **President** asked what were the wishes of the Council regarding the reading of the minutes. The record of the last meeting of Council at Chicago was a report rather than minutes.

The **Vice-President**, who had presided over the last Quinquennial said no official report of the proceedings at Chicago were printed. Type-written copies, however, had been sent to Lady Aberdeen to her own office, and also to the French Council, those two Councils being the only ones then in existence. Those minutes were in some respects incorrect, and they were very lengthy, so she proposed that the reading of those minutes should be omitted.

She would like to have that followed up by another resolution to the effect that in connection with the proceedings of the Conference the report of the first Quinquennial Meeting should be printed, and sent out under separate cover, and that a committee should be formed that should be entirely composed of women present at that meeting to go through all the records of it, and make a complete record of the meeting, to be printed as a permanent source of information for the Council.

Miss Shaw pointed out the fact that the resolution covered two separate propositions, and therefore moved, seconded by Mrs Creighton :—

“That the minutes be not read.”

Miss Wilson moved in amendment, seconded by Fru Hierta-Retzius :—

“That the resolutions in the minutes be read.”

This was put from the Chair, and carried.

Miss Wilson was requested to look through the minutes and to mark the resolutions to be afterwards read.

Miss Anthony moved, seconded by Mme. Klerk van Hogen-dorp :—

“That the minutes to be compiled by the committee be printed.”

Mrs Creighton pointed out that by the Standing Orders all resolutions proposed must be put in writing.

Miss Shaw rose to a point of order and drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that no Recording Secretary was present, and proposed that the President appoint someone to act in the Secretary's absence.

The President asked Miss Shaw if she would act as Recording Secretary, but Miss Shaw declined.

She then appointed Mrs Willoughby Cummings, saying that that lady had had great experience both as Recording and as Corresponding Secretary in Canada.

Mrs Willoughby Cummings accepted the duty.

Mrs Creighton asked if the minutes aforesaid when printed would be considered to be binding upon the Council as directing its policy.

The President said that it might cause considerable difficulty if the actions of the First Quinquennial Council Meeting were not considered binding.

Mrs Sewall (Vice-President) said that some changes were

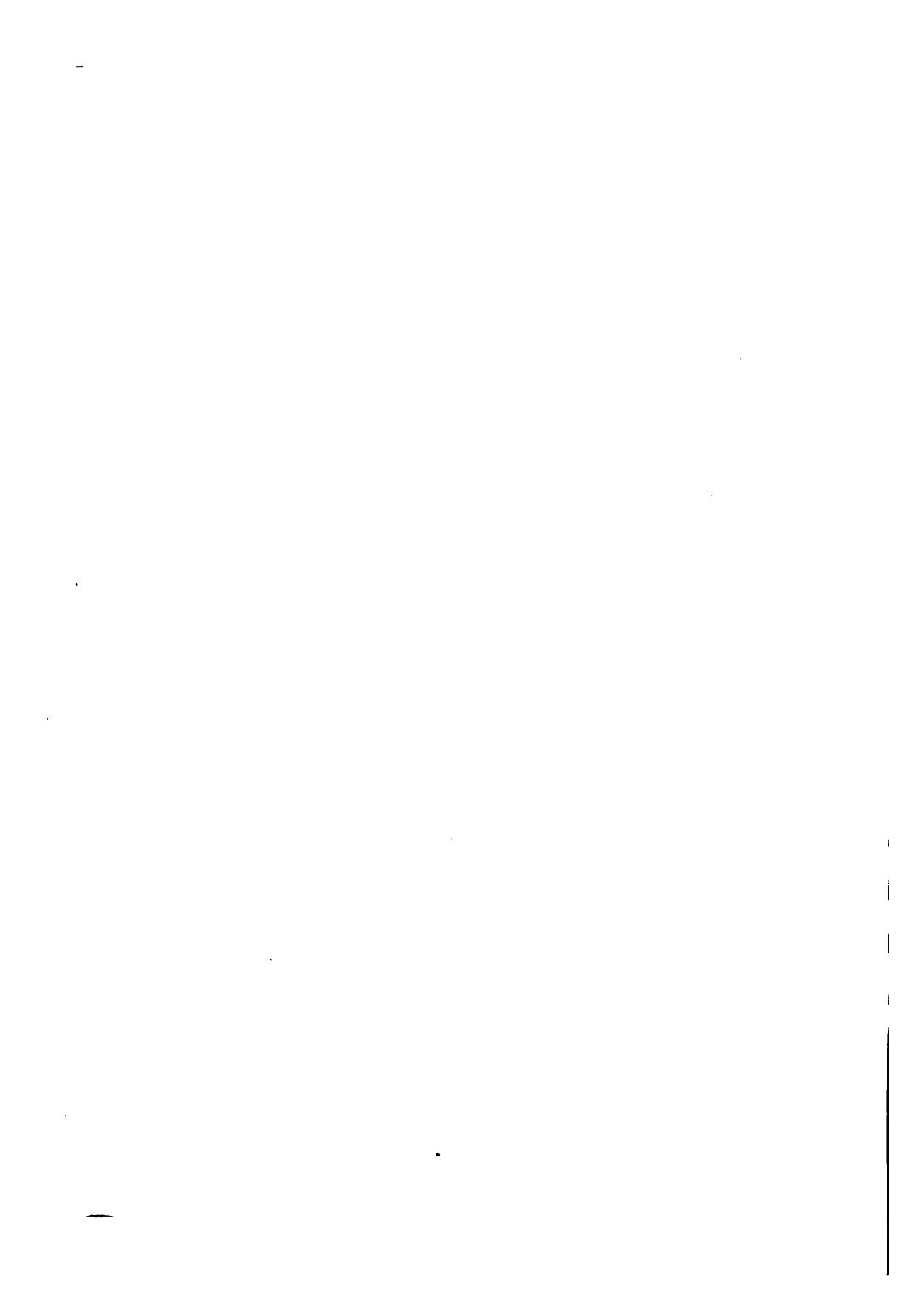


MRS. WILLOUGHBY CUMMINGS

*Official Delegate from the National Council of Women of Canada, and appointed  
to act as Recording Secretary on behalf of Madame Oddo Deslon  
during the sittings of the International Council of 1899.*

Photo by Cochrane, Hamilton.)

[To face p. 82.



made in the Constitution at the meeting of 1893, a record of which should be in the hands of the Council. So far as the resolutions bore on the Constitution and the shaping of their work, they must be considered as binding, but that was not what she had in mind.

The President said that as the record alluded to was the only document handed to her concerning the actions of the last Quinquennial, and as she had had no option but to act on them as if they were binding, that she must ask that this record be printed forthwith and placed in the hands of the Council before she resigned her presidency.

Mrs Dixson asked if this matter which referred to the past had anything to do with the business of this present meeting, and urged that the agenda be proceeded with.

The President said that the discussion had reference to records which it was important should be in the possession of the members.

Miss Anthony then read her resolution, which had been put into writing, as follows:—

“That a committee consisting only of official members present at the last Quinquennial Meeting be formed to have the minutes printed as permanent record of the proceedings of the first meeting of the International Council. This record to be signed by the then officers of the International Council who were present.”

The President said that this was a different resolution from that proposed at first by the mover.

Miss Anthony said this covered what was in her mind.

Miss Shaw asked if any Standing Orders had been adopted by the Council.

The President said that Standing Orders had been adopted by the Executive Committee, but the Council was not bound by them until they had been formally adopted.

Miss Shaw moved that the Standing Orders and Amended Constitution be the rule of the proceedings of this meeting until such time as they are formally discussed and adopted or rejected.

Mrs Sewall thought this resolution was not sufficiently inclusive, and suggested that it should cover the whole time of this Quinquennial Session.

Miss Shaw then moved the following resolution, after a short discussion on what had been done in the matter at the last meeting of the Executive:—

“That the proposed Standing Rules of Order and the proposed

Amendments of the Constitution shall be our rule of proceeding during this Quinquennial, in so far as they do not conflict with the present Constitution."

**Lady Battersea** seconded this resolution, which was then put from the Chair, and carried.

**Miss Anthony's** resolution (referring to the minutes of the meeting of 1893) was read again, and **Mme. Klerck van Hogendorp** seconded it.

**Mrs Gaffney** said that after these minutes which were in **Lady Aberdeen's** hands were printed no correction could be made.

**The President** said that she could not see how she could sign the minutes when printed, when she had not seen the material from which they were compiled, and was not present at the meeting in question.

**Mrs Sewall** sympathised with the feelings of the President, and proposed that she be authorised to have the minutes which had been put into her hands during her first year of office printed unsigned, and that the committee prepare from them, and from other documents, an official record of the early history of the Council.

**Miss Wilson** asked if it was not essential that the President should sign some minutes as official.

**Mrs Sewall** said that as she had acted as Chairman of that meeting at the request of the President, **Miss Clara Barton**, she would be in a position to sign the minutes.

**Lady Laura Riddings** suggested the following rider to **Miss Anthony's** resolution :—

"That **Lady Aberdeen** be authorised meanwhile to have printed for distribution among the Council the copy of minutes forwarded to her on which she has acted during the period of her presidency."

This **Miss Anthony** accepted as part of her resolution, which, having been put from the Chair, was carried in its complete form and was carried unanimously.

**The President** asked if the matter in the minutes which she had received and acted upon during the last five years be changed by other information, how would this effect the Council, and what action should be taken?

**Lady Laura Riddings** said that the minutes compiled by the committee should be considered simply as a record.

Mrs Dobson asked if a record would not be as binding as minutes.

The President said it would not, and that she would take it as understood that the Council agreed in the opinion expressed by Lady Laura.

## Quinquennial Report.

Presented by the Corresponding Secretary, July 1899.

MME. PRESIDENT, AND FELLOW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL,—I have the honour to submit to you, on behalf of the Executive, a brief report of the work of the International Council since the last Quinquennial Meeting in 1893.

After the close of that great and wonderful gathering at Chicago, the International Council consisted of 2 federated National Councils, 5 elected Officers, and 28 Vice-Presidents, pledged to carry on the work and spread the ideals of the International Council throughout the world.

That is now 6 years ago, an additional year having been added to the present quinquennial period owing to the delay in forming a National Council in this country.

I am happy to be able to report a very marked growth during this period, not only in the tangible and visible body of federated National Councils, but also in the understanding and appreciation of our methods and aims, in spite of certain vagueness about both our methods and aims, which I may say is at once our stumbling-block and our pride—our stumbling-block because of the difficulty we experience in explaining precisely by rule and measure what we are and what we want, and our pride because this very vagueness enables us to be all-embracing, and to set before us a high ideal towards which the best of us have made but little progress as yet, which may not for many years be fully realised, but which we believe to be of priceless moment to the human race.

But to come to facts.

Of the two Councils federated in 1893, the elder sister of the confederation of Councils, born in 1888, across the Atlantic, has duly appointed representatives here amongst us to-day, who will

be far better able than I to give a worthy account of her work and progress. We shall welcome what they have to tell us of their history of the past 6 years.

The next member of our Federation, which made such a flourishing start in 1892, has, I regret to say, no longer a definite existence. The Council idea is of slow growth, and needs careful and patient building up. It may be that the new movement in France was not fortunate in this respect. It certainly did lack the aid and superintendence of a master builder, for this new Council decided to have neither president nor vice-president, and though these posts are often ornamental ones, in this case the result seems to have been that the secretary became such a very autocratic ruler that she declined to summon any meetings whatsoever, and so the body corporate, formed with such care, ceased to show any activity. The groups composing it carried out each its own work, and the National Council dropped out of sight, to our very sincere regret. We trust that before long the women of France will take their proper place in our ranks, and meanwhile we are honoured with the presence of Mme. Bogelot, and Mlle. Sarah Monod, as delegates to the International Council, and there are others here to-day who will, we hope, carry back to France a pledge to forward the Council movement by every means in their power.

Of the International Officers elected in 1893, all except one have served their full term. I am the only new-comer, and yet I think I, too, can claim to have been closely connected with the work from the time that our President took up her staff of office. Mrs Eva Maclare, whose health obliged her to resign in January 1896, set herself quickly and resolutely, after the Chicago meeting, to gather up the threads of her work, and she has left a substantial and lasting record behind her, for the beginnings of the Australasian Councils were evolved under her fostering care, and she made many efforts to capture those shadowy and elusive personages nominated in 1893, and known to us all as Vice-Presidents for countries where no National Council exists. In spite of every effort, many of them have resolutely refused the position offered to them; three only have taken an active part in furthering the formation of National Councils, and their efforts have been crowned with success.

Immediately after her election, our President set herself with a whole heart to aid in the formation of a National Council in Canada. This may have been thought an easy task in a young

country without deeply-rooted methods of work. It has not been so. Here, as elsewhere, the preliminary work has been attended with grave difficulties, and much tact and forbearance on the part of all has been required. Canada has its cleavages; the French-speaking and English-speaking Canadian women had little in common; the different Provinces have each their own special interest; the prairie has its own problems to solve, and two huge mountain ranges divide British Columbia from the rest of the Dominion. In spite of these drawbacks, the work of consolidation has been carried out, and we are proud to-day of what the Canadian women have been able to accomplish. They are, however, here to-day to speak for themselves, and I must no longer trespass on their domain. The formation of their National Council took place in 1893, and they were federated in 1896.

In order of birth the German Council comes next, having been formed in 1894 and federated in 1896. Here also the work has been arduous and uphill. We are all aware of the difficulties attending any initiative taken by German women, and of the earnestness with which German women have striven to gain a better legal position for themselves. The movement is spreading throughout the country, and I implicitly believe in the capacity of this Council to overcome prejudice and to open its doors to every woman worker, no matter what her social position, her opinion, or her methods of work may be. This is the task which every National Council has to set itself to carry out. We regret the absence to-day of the veteran President of this Council, Fräulein Augusta Schmidt.

The Swedish Council comes next in order of formation. It started in January 1896, with nine affiliated societies, and it federated that same year. It has lately sustained a serious loss in the death of its President, Fru Ankersvärd. Under the earnest work and influence of Fru Hierta-Retzius, who has been appointed in her place, our work in Sweden is sure to spread and deepen.

It is well known that British women are in the vanguard of all kinds of practical work. Their zeal and energy are unbounded, and probably just because of these very qualities they are not apt to be enthusiastic over what they consider vague aspirations and ideals. There was therefore a considerable delay in the formation of a Council here. For 10 years an organised body of women workers had been holding admirable Conferences on various phases of women's work, and had been forming Local Unions of

women. The officers of the International Council felt that it would be most valuable if this body could develop into a National Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and they approached them with this object in view. The committee of this organisation decided in 1896 that it was impossible for them to accept this invitation. In 1897 they offered to federate on terms which the Executive of the International Council did not approve of. The Executive, which met in July 1897, therefore decided, in view of the approaching Quinquennial Meeting in London, that they must themselves take steps to organise a National Council, which could act in co-operation with the International Council on the occasion of the forthcoming sessions already alluded to. A Conference was at once convened and held, by kind permission of Mrs Wynford Phillips, at the Women's Institute. At this meeting members of the National Union of Women Workers made fresh propositions, and a provisional committee was appointed to confer with them. The result of these conferences was that certain amendments to their Constitution were agreed to, and, at their annual meeting in October 1897, the National Union of Women Workers formally constituted their governing body the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and their application for federation was accepted by our Executive in 1898. To the regret of all, the able and beloved President of this Council, Mrs Alfred Booth, is debarred by her medical advisers from taking part in our proceedings.

In 1896 and 1897 our President delegated me to report to her on the position of the Council movement in the different countries of Europe. I visited the centres of women's activity in France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. At many places meetings were held and opportunities courteously offered to me of explaining the objects of the International Council, and of making the acquaintance of many earnest women workers. I rejoice to-day in being able to meet once more many of these workers here as delegates from National Councils, or from committees appointed for the formation of the same, and we may congratulate them heartily on the work they have succeeded in accomplishing. The formation of these committees has been an interesting and promising feature of our later endeavours. They are now at work in Switzerland, Italy, Russia, Austria and Norway, and we hope for great things from them. Even in brave little Finland an

effort would have been made had it not been for the present all-absorbing troubles.

There has also been a decided advance in the formation of new Councils.

The Council of Denmark, which is due greatly to the influence of Miss Kirstin Fredriksen, known to many here because of her presence at Chicago, was formed and federated in March of this year, and has sent a large contingent of speakers and onlookers to be with us to-day.

The Council of Holland, whose formation has been of deep interest to us, has been wisely and carefully developed, and promises to be a very representative and ideal Council, under the able presidency and leadership of Mme. Klerck van Hogendorp.

In Belgium alone, of all the countries of Northern Europe, no move has been made as yet.

I must also go further afield, and report the formation of vigorous National Councils in New Zealand and New South Wales, formed in 1896 and 1897, and federated this spring. Tasmania has also just sent an application for federation by the means of a delegate, who started for London at 24 hours' notice. Preliminary committees have been formed in Victoria, Cape Colony, and the Argentine Republic, and even in China strenuous efforts are being made to send delegates to the Council meetings. We shall have India represented by Mrs Flora Annie Steele and Miss Mary Bohr.

Nine federated National Councils and 8 preliminary committees, formed to promote the Council idea, with at least 28 countries, personally, if I may use the term, represented here to-day, is the record of the last 6 years' growth.

It is a matter for very real thankfulness to us that we have been fortunate enough to secure delegates from all these different countries, and we earnestly desire that they should carry back with them a realisation of the work we desire to see done, and a deeper sense of the brotherhood of the world.

I must add a few words before closing on internal detail. We have held in these last 6 years three meetings of Executive. The first met in London on July 1897, and decided to postpone the Quinquennial Session for 1 year. Much thought was given to certain alterations in the Constitution and Standing Orders presented for approval of the Council. These have all been provisionally acted upon. Several important resolutions to be dealt with

at the Quinquennial Sessions were also accepted from National Councils. In July 1898 the Executive met once more in London, under the able presidency of our Vice-President-at-Large, Mrs May Wright Sewall. This meeting carried through a variety of arrangements for the Quinquennial Meeting, and felt itself compelled to reconsider the decision of the previous Executive as to opening the meetings of the International Council with silent prayer. It agreed to place on the agenda the amended Constitution sent up by the newly-federated British Council, but only with a very strongly-worded protest against the provisions made therein, which seemed to them to nullify both the ideals and functions of the International Council. I need not dwell on the agenda drawn up at this meeting, as it is now before you in detail.

Our last Executive, held in March of this year, had the joyful task of accepting the federation of 5 new Councils, bringing the total number up to 9. They also considered gravely the policy of the International Council, both present and future, and their deliberations are now laid before this gathering for approval or the reverse.

I cannot close this report without some reference to the International Congress, convened by the International Council, and taking place at the same time as our Quinquennial Meetings. Our most strenuous endeavours have been to make this Congress a success, and we have been most generously aided by many British women, who have given their means and their time and their experience to bring about a real international gathering, with what results this week will show. There are those among us who think that this has been done at the expense of the Council gatherings, which have receded into the background in the public mind, but even if this be so, I am sure we shall not regret having called together our sisters from so many different countries to confer together, to learn from each other, and to strengthen the bond of sisterhood between us in the fulfilment of our high ideal—"The union of all for the good of all."

All of which respectfully is submitted by

TERESA F. WILSON,

*Corresponding Secretary.*

The Quinquennial Report was adopted with acclamation on the motion of **Fru-Hierta Retzius** (Sweden), seconded by **Mme. Klerck van Hogendorp** (Holland).

The Treasurer, in submitting the balance-sheet, said that when appointed she wrote to the previous Treasurer for the funds, and was told there were none. She also wrote to the Secretary, and received the same answer. At last she found out the secret that from 1893 to 1898 all the expenses were paid by Lady Aberdeen. She reminded the members of these facts, because she wanted a spirit of appreciation as well as a spirit of criticism to be present at their meetings. She thought they would all agree with her that they would find it humiliating to be so much indebted to Lady Aberdeen if they did not honour and love her so much.

The balance-sheet was as follows:—

#### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
(For Quinquennial Term.)		(For 1898-99.)	
British National Council,	£20 0 0	Office Rent,	£20 0 0
Canadian "	20 0 0	Salaries for Secretarial	
New South Wales "	20 0 0	Work,	22 2 5
German National Council,	20 0 0	Printing and Stationery,	50 9 9
Swedish "	20 12 6	Typewriting,	2 8 7
Danish "	4 0 0	Postages, Cable, and Tele-	
Dutch "	2 0 0	grams,	6 6 3
Mr J. Neilson Hamilton (Patron),	20 0 0	Messenger Call Box and	
Mr Walter Barrett,	2 0 0	Telegraphic Address,	1 11 6
United States National Council,	20 0 0	Travelling Expenses,	1 4 3
		Sundry "	0 17 2
		Durrant's Press Cutting	
		Agency,	2 2 0
		Balance in hand,	41 10 7
	£148 12 6		£148 12 6

I have examined the above Accounts, with the Vouchers, and found them correct.  
M. S. CLUGSTON, Accountant.

June 24th, 1899.

The balance-sheet was adopted on the motion of Miss Anthony, seconded by Mrs Armitage.

The Rev. Anna Shaw said they appreciated and were deeply grateful for the splendid service which Lady Aberdeen had rendered the International Council by her large donation of money, which had enabled it to arrive at its present splendid position. She moved a vote of thanks to Lady Aberdeen.

The following vote of thanks to the President was moved by Miss Shaw, seconded by Fru Hierta-Retzius :—

“Resolved—‘That we extend to the Countess of Aberdeen our heartfelt appreciation and profound gratitude for the great personal devotion and service, and also for the magnificent financial aid which she has rendered the International Council of Women. We feel that its splendid development and success is due in great part to her efforts, and we therefore tender her our sincere and earnest thanks.’”

The motion was put to the meeting by Mrs Sewall, and carried.

The President, in reply, said it had been a great pleasure for her to do what she felt was really necessary for the Council, and she had rather expected a vote of censure for taking action which was not authorised.

The President then called on the representatives of the federated National Councils to present their reports.

NOTE.—The Editor has received the following letter from Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg,—

FINLAND, HELSINGFORS, October 9th, 1899.

DEAR LADY ABERDEEN,—Will you allow me to use this opportunity, and ask you to express to Mrs Bedford Fenwick my sincerest appreciation of the excellent way in which she has, on my behalf, carried on the duties of the Treasurer of the International Council of Women. I have felt it, and said it many times before, but I feel it perhaps most keenly now, when I send you the last manuscripts for the transactions of the Congress, and thus feel as if I had done with it. I can only say that I congratulate the Council that Finland was so far away, as my absence gave it the advantage of Mrs Bedford Fenwick's treasurership.—I remain, dear Madam, yours truly,

ALEXANDRA GRIPENBERG.





MRS. F. HUMPHREYS GAFFNEY.

*President of the National Council of Women of the United States of America.*

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## REPORTS OF NATIONAL COUNCILS.

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### United States (1893-1899).

Presented by Mrs Fannie Humphreys Gaffney, President.

OUR last Quinquennial was held at Chicago during the World's Fair or Columbian Exposition held in that city, when we were only about 5 years old.

At this time the National Council of the United States held a Department Congress in the World's Congress of Representative Women and entertained foreign delegates. Seven thousand names were registered as visitors on our books at the Council headquarters. This Congress greatly assisted the cause of women by attracting attention to the fact that organisation was steadily advancing among women, and that increased pleasure, profit and protection were the result. Two triennial meetings have since been held by our National Council, one in 1895 and one in 1899.

At the 1895 Triennial 27 sessions were held, which included the usual topics—religion, temperance, education, philanthropy, patriotism and organisation.

One session was devoted to that important question—"Equal Pay for Equal Work," irrespective of sex.

Another session was given to industries, and was occupied by delegates from our National Association of Women Stenographers.

Politics was given two or three sessions to demonstrate "How the Moral Element could be supplied to Politics," and how the question of the woman and the tiger could be settled in a certain locality which keeps a well-fed tiger as the pet of one class of citizens and the terror of the others.

We also had a paper on Woman's Relation to Hygiene in the Past, Present and Future, and settled the question hygienically.

Our committee on dress was then, as now, mindful of its

duty, both by precept and example, and the idea of dress was discussed from every standpoint, from hygiene to art.

Our motto—"Lead Kindly Light"—has led us on, and is shedding new light on us year by year.

From 7 organisations the Council, in its second triennial, had grown to be 17, and now in 1899 we have grown to 20 national and 51 local councils.

Our work is largely done through committees standing for some high purpose.

Conferences of our National Council were held at Atlanta during the Exposition in 1895.

On November 12th, 1895, there was given in New York City, under the auspices of the Council, a celebration in honour of the eightieth birthday of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, in recognition of her half century of pioneer work in the cause of women.

Near the close of 1896 the President, Mrs Dickinson, being prostrated by serious illness, tendered her resignation.

The vice-president, the Rev. Anna H. Shaw, did noble service, and held the Council until Mrs May Wright Sewall was duly appointed to fill the unexpired term.

Our Council has adopted the colours of the peace flag—purple, white and yellow—as a fitting emblem of the brotherhood of man, and a worthy flag for co-operative work at home or abroad.

The organisations constituting the National Council of Women of the United States consist of 17 National Organisations, 1 State Council and 6 Local Councils. They are as follows:—

National American Women's Suffrage Association. Miss Susan B. Anthony, President, Rochester, N.Y.

National Women's Christian Temperance Union. Mrs Lilian M. N. Stevens, President, Stroudwater, Maine.

National Free Baptist Women's Missionary Society. Mrs Mary A. Davis, President, Arlington, R. I.

National Women's Relief Society. Mrs Zina D. H. Young, President, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Wimodaughsis. Mrs Ada G. Dickerson, President, Washington, D.C.

Young Ladies' National Mutual Improvement Association. Mrs Elmina S. Taylor, President, Salt Lake City, Utah.

National Christian League for the Promotion of Social Purity. Mrs Elizabeth B. Grannis, President, New York City, N.Y.



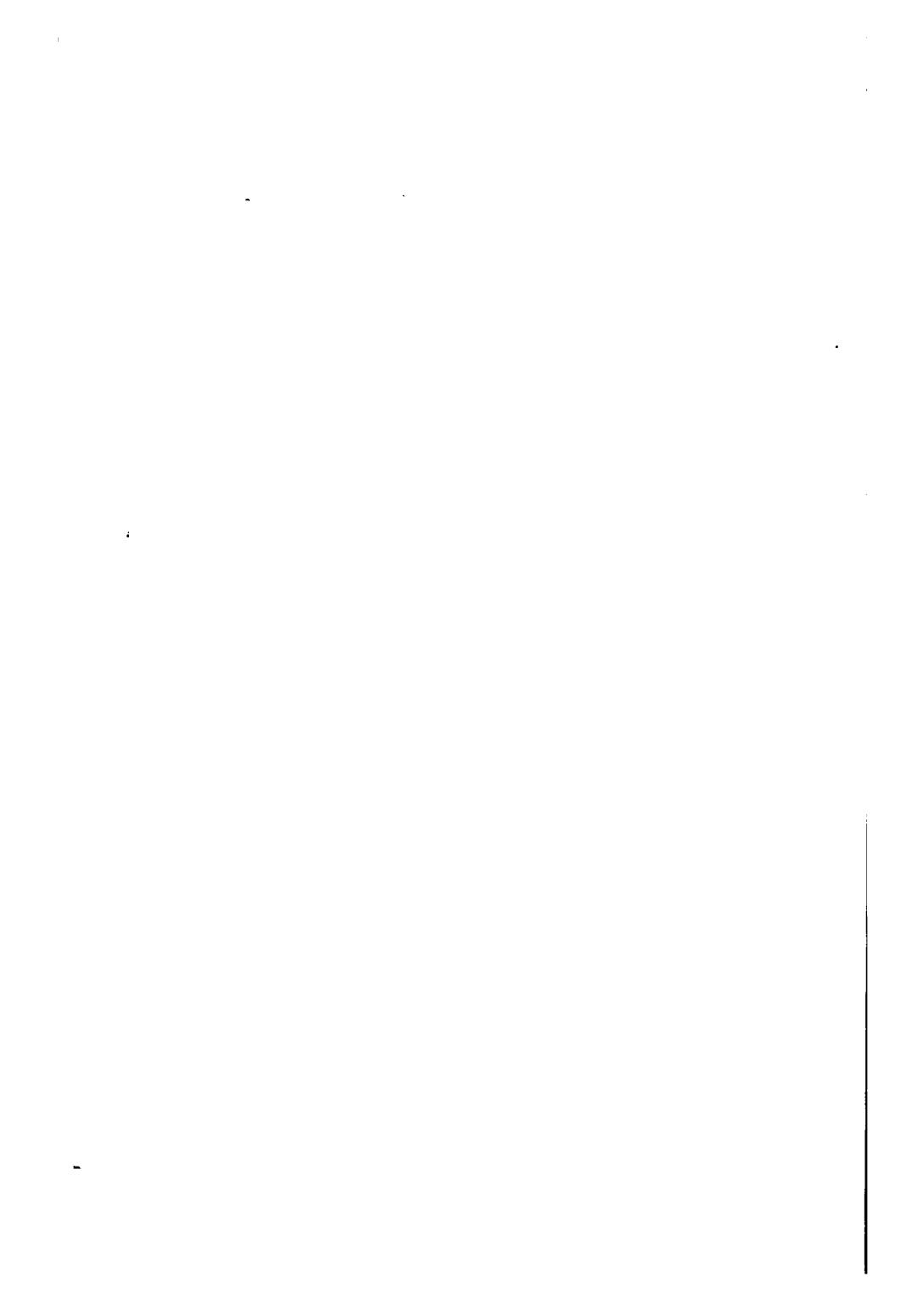
REV. ANNA HOWARD SHAW.



MISS SUSAN B. ANTHONY.

*Official Delegates of the National Council of Women of the United States.*

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Universal Peace Union. Rev. Amanda Deyo, Representative, Philadelphia, Pa.

Women's Republican Association of the United States. Mrs J. Ellen Foster, President, Washington, D.C.

National Association of Loyal Women of American Liberty. Mrs I. C. Manchester, President, Providence, R.I.

Women's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. Mrs Flo. Jameson Miller, National President, Monticello, Ill.

National Association of Women Stenographers. Miss Gertrude Beeks, President, Chicago, Ill.

National Council of Jewish Women. Mrs Hannah G. Solomon, President, Chicago, Ill.

American Anti-Vivisection Society. Mrs Caroline Earle White, Representative, Philadelphia, Pa.

National Florence Crittenton Mission. Mrs Kate Waller Barrett, Representative, Washington, D.C.

Supreme Hive Ladies of the Maccabees. Mrs Lilian M. Hollister, President, Detroit, Mich.

Rathbone Sisters of the World. Mrs Jennette B. S. Neubert, President, Kansas City, Kan.

State Council of Rhode Island. Rev. Anna Garlin Spencer, President, Providence, R.I.

Local Council of Women of Rochester, New York. Mrs Joseph O'Connor, President.

Local Council of Women of Bloomington, Indiana. Mrs L. M. Beck, President.

Local Council of Women of Indianapolis, Indiana. Mrs Flora Sullivan Wulschner, President.

Local Council of Women of Minneapolis, Minn. Mrs Anna M. Higbee, President.

Local Council of Women of Portland, Maine. Mrs J. Henry Crockett, Acting President. Mrs Margaret T. W. Merrill, Honorary President.

Local Council of Women of Quincy, Illinois. Mrs Anna L. Parker, President.

At our last Triennial, held in February of this year, the Council decided upon such change in Constitution as should make retiring presidents honorary presidents, with vote in the Executive.

For our present action we have much in hand. First, with a view to generalising work, the various organisations throughout

the United States, either within or without the Council, are to be grouped or titled under comprehensive heads, as—Education, Politics, Economics, etc. Then, having classified organisation, we can appoint a Cabinet head to look after these special lines of work within the Council.

It is also under consideration that a committee shall be formed to inquire into the social and general life of women in Cuba, Porto Rico and Hawaii, and that a commission shall be appointed from within the Council to visit and inspect these islands with a view of co-operation and sympathy with the women in these dependencies.

We as a Council are strong in hope to do, and in faith and will to do it. In the years to come, as in years past, our Council will follow the light which leads onward and upward toward that hierarchy of renown reserved for all noble and disinterested effort.

## Canada (1893-1899).

Presented by Mrs Willoughby Cummings, Secretary.

THE history of the National Council of Women of Canada should date from the close of the Congress of Women convened by the National Council of Women of the United States, in Chicago, at the time of the World's Fair.

At a meeting of the foreign delegates to that Congress, held in the Palmer House on May 22nd, 1893, Mrs May Wright Sewall, President of the National Council of Women of the United States, and Vice-President-at-Large of the International Council of Women, took the chair, and in an address to those present clearly and ably outlined the Council idea, and afterwards provisional Vice-Presidents and Secretaries were appointed, who undertook the work of trying to bring about the organisation of National Councils in their respective countries on their return home.

Sixteen Canadian women were present at that meeting, of whom ten were from Toronto, one from Winnipeg, one from the



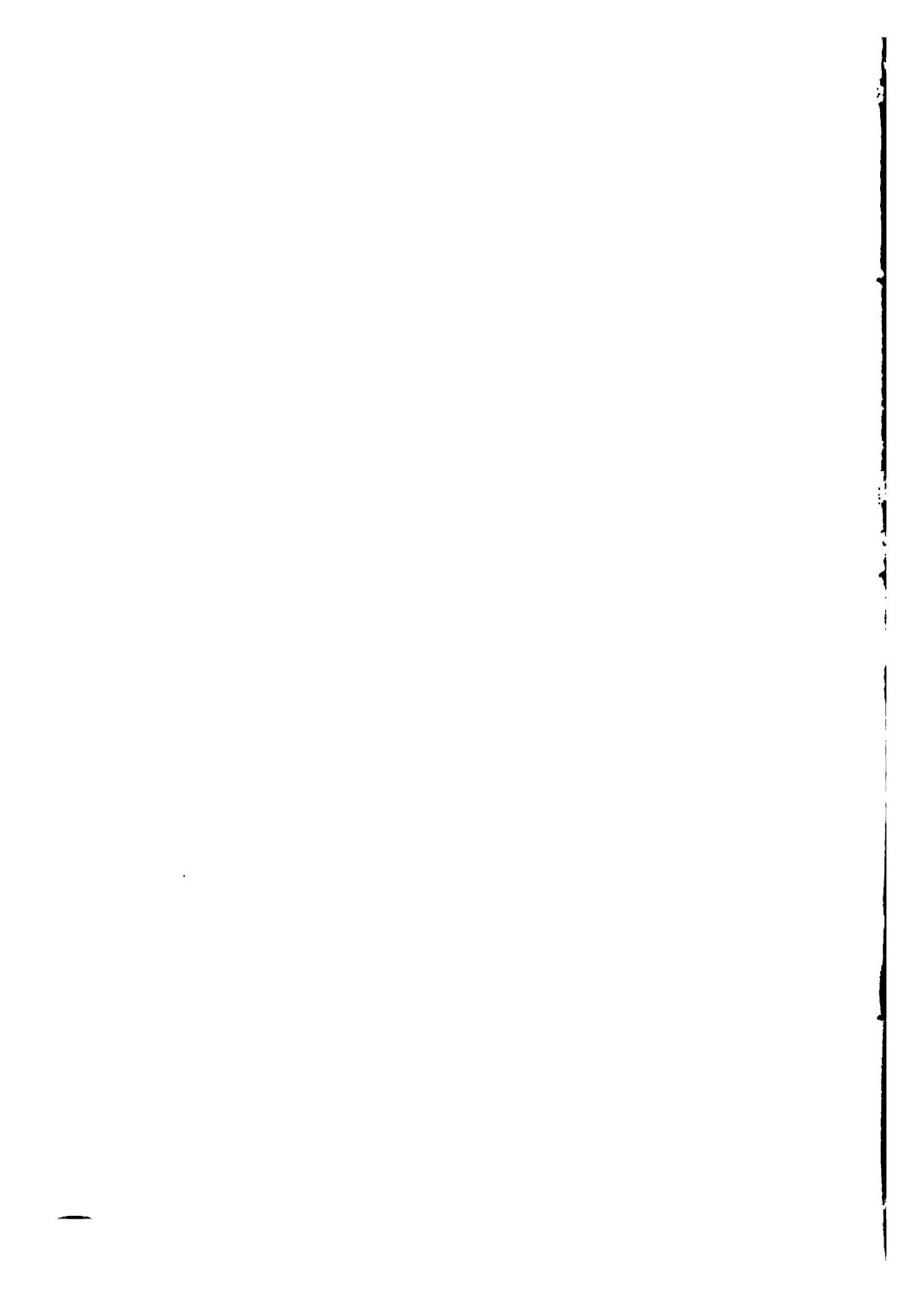
MRS. BOOMER.

*Acting President for the Countess of Aberdeen, President of the National Council of Women of Canada.*



MRS. FRANK GIBBS.

*Official Delegate for the National Council of Women of Canada.*



province of Quebec, two from Hamilton, one from London, and one from Port Arthur. The two officers appointed provisionally for Canada were Mrs Richard M'Donnell, Vice-President, and Mrs Willoughby Cummings, Hon. Secretary.

In the following September some of the ladies met again in Toronto in consultation as to the first steps that should be taken towards the inauguration of the Council movement in Canada. Mrs Hoodless was appointed provisional Treasurer, and it was decided to call a public meeting of women workers in Toronto, and to specially invite those whose names were prominent in the various organisations of women in all parts of the Dominion.

With her usual kindness, the Countess of Aberdeen, who had but just arrived in Canada as the wife of the Governor-General, assented to the wishes of this committee, and agreed to take the chair at the meeting, and also promised to speak on behalf of the proposed organisation.

The meeting was held on the 26th of October 1893, and was very representative, and largely attended. A resolution to form a National Council of Women of Canada was adopted unanimously, the Countess of Aberdeen graciously consenting to be the President, and the provisional officers were confirmed in their appointments.

The Constitution for National Councils, as had been set forth by the framers, was amended slightly to suit local conditions, and the organisation of Local Councils began at once—that of Toronto being formed on 3rd November, Hamilton on 17th November, Montreal on 30th November, and others shortly afterwards.

At the time of the first annual meeting, which was held in Ottawa in the month of April following, there were eight local councils and three nationally organised societies federated in the National Council of Canada. Now the number of Local Councils is 21, and these form a chain across the Dominion of Canada, from the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west. The number of nationally organised societies in the Council is now 6, their aims and objects being widely different. They are the Women's Art Association of Canada, the Girls' Friendly Society, the Dominion Women's Enfranchisement Association, the Dominion Order of the King's Daughters, the Aberdeen Association, the Victorian Order of Nurses.

The Council meets yearly in the various cities by invitation,

and at these annual meetings, which last a week, the afternoons are devoted to conference on different aspects of women's work, papers being read and discussed, and verbatim reports being afterwards printed of the same for sale. Sectional conferences are also held by the Nationally Organised Societies during the annual meetings, the opportunity being an excellent one for that purpose.

The work undertaken by the several Local Councils naturally varies a great deal, owing to the fact that some of them are formed in large cities and others are in small, distant towns, and only a brief general outline can now be given of what has been accomplished by them individually, and by the National Council as a whole.

1. The Council, through its Local Councils, obtained an amendment in the Education Act, to provide for the introduction of manual training and instruction in domestic science in the public schools of the province of Ontario, and the training of teachers, so that they may be able to give instruction in these arts. It has also given an emphasis to the same movement in other provinces.
2. It has obtained the appointment of Women Factory Inspectors for factories and workshops where women are employed in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario.
3. It has obtained the extension of the provisions of the Factory Act to the Shop Act in Ontario as regards the supervision of women workers.
4. It has obtained the appointment of women on the Boards of School Trustees in New Brunswick, and the amendment of the School Act, so that they may be elected in British Columbia.
5. It has brought about very desirable changes in the arrangements for women prisoners in various places, notably in the City of Quebec, where matrons are now in charge of the women, and young girls are now sent to a separate institution.
6. It has organised in various centres Boards of Associated Charities or other systems of co-operation in the relief of distress, and is still working in this direction wherever it has opportunity so to do, and is this year circulating a valuable paper or study on the problem of the unemployed.
7. It has established hospitals in some of its smaller centres.
8. It originated the Victorian Order of Nurses, and has taken a leading part in its establishment in different centres.

9. It has organised cooking schools, cooking classes, and at Quebec is helping in the formation of a Training School for Domestic Servants.

10. It has spread sanitary knowledge, especially by means of Health Talks for Mothers, given by physicians; this has been a valuable success in Montreal. This has been specially successful both amongst the French and English mothers.

11. It has held an inquiry all over the country into the circulation of impure literature, and has been able to do something to lessen it already, as well as to warn parents and teachers as to the very great danger that exists in this direction. It hopes to be able to do more both by legislation and by the circulation of healthy and interesting literature. It also inaugurated the Home Reading Union, to promote habits of good and systematic reading.

12. It instituted inquiries into the conditions surrounding working women in various centres, and urges on its members various methods whereby they may work for their amelioration.

13. It conducted an inquiry into the laws for the protecting of women and children, and has laid certain recommendations before the Minister of Justice, which it earnestly hopes he will adopt when amending the Criminal Law.

14. It is at the present moment earnestly concerning itself in the care and treatment of the aged poor.

15. It is now calling on all its members to unite in efforts for the protection of animal and bird life from useless destruction in the interests of fashion.

16. Through one of its affiliated societies it is endeavouring to plan for the better care and wiser distribution of women immigrants than has hitherto been possible.

17. It is pledged to co-operate with the medical authorities in urging immediate measures to be taken to check the ever-increasing ravages of consumptive diseases in this country, to spread knowledge on the subject and press responsibility home on individuals.

Perhaps not the least important work that has been accomplished by the Council has been that it has bound together in sympathy and united effort the women of the various provinces, of different opinions, politics and beliefs, drawing them together in closer citizenship—the benefit of which to the national life who can fully estimate or understand?

Besides the great help which the Council has received from

the untiring zeal and the wonderful executive ability of its President, the Countess of Aberdeen, the cordial approval and ever-willing assistance of the Earl of Aberdeen, throughout his term of office as Governor-General of the Dominion, has been much valued and appreciated by its members. Grateful acknowledgment should also be made of the many encouragements received by the Council from Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister, Sir John Thompson, and other ministers and ex-ministers of the Crown, as well as from the most prominent men in official life, both lay and clerical.

Special mention should also be made of the great help and assistance given to the Council by Sir John Bourinot in drawing up the Standing Orders and in helpful advice given to the officers from time to time.

Since the departure of the President from Canada, Lady Edgar, the wife of the Speaker of the House of Commons, has been Acting President. Miss Teresa F. Wilson, who was appointed Corresponding Secretary last October, will probably begin her new work in Canada in a few weeks' time.

The members of the Canadian Council have lately had a most gratifying request made to them by the Government of the Dominion, who have asked the Council to undertake the compilation of a volume containing a record of the aims, position and work of the women of Canada, past and present, in regard to the religion, education, art, philanthropy, literature, industries, economics, moral and social reform, professions and the like. The Government intends to publish a large edition of this volume for distribution at the coming Paris Exposition, and they will defray all the expenses in connection with the compilation of the same.

This work is now being undertaken by the members of the Council with much spirit and energy, and in the determination to spare no time nor effort, so that the result may be satisfactory to the Government that has shown its confidence in the Council by committing such an important matter into the hands of its members.

The Canadian Council has adopted as its badge a lover's knot of dark and light blue enamel, on which are the words of the "Golden Rule," and this badge is worn by its members.

A grateful note of appreciation of the help and encouragement which this Council has received from the kind visits of Mrs May Wright Sewall, Mrs Foster Avery, and other members of the





FRAU ANNA SIMSON.

*Acting President for Fraulein Augusta Schmidt, President of the National Council of Women of Germany.*



FRAU BIEBER-BOEHM.

*Delegate.*



FRAU MARIE STRITT.

*Delegate.*

*Official Delegates from the National Council of Women of Germany.*

*[To face p. 101.]*

United States Council at the annual meetings from time to time, must close this report.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

## Germany (1894-1899).

**Presented by Frau Marie Stritt, Second Vice-President.**

I HAVE the honour to give you, in the name of the Executive of the Bund Deutscher Frauen Vereine, a short report of its tasks, aims and activity hitherto. Allow me to precede this report by a few words concerning its foundation, which took place in March 1894, and had its origin in the inspiration which some German women received at the International Congress of Women in Chicago, 1893, by coming into contact with the National Council of Women of the United States. Therefore, the aims and ends, the leading ideas and inner construction of this model organisation, have served our Bund in its general outlines as a pattern from its beginning, though, of course, we have taken into consideration the widely different economic, social and political circumstances of Germany in general, and specially the different conditions in the German and American women's movement, and had, therefore, often to choose other ways in pursuing our aims. But the establishing of an inner connection between all women's unions, which place their work in the service of the welfare of the people and of family life, were also considered and laid down as a fundamental principle by the first originators of the Bund, and by those women who united with them for that purpose. Thus the ground was prepared for the programme, and the leading points were given once for ever for the united working of associations of the most different tendencies and colouring. What the Bund Deutscher Frauen Vereine aims at representing is not that which separates us, but that which unites us ; not the extremes in the woman's movement, not even the modern woman's movement *as such*, but the social work of women in all its branches. As in this motion all propagandist activity for raising the condition of women in general is included, it was only natural that, above all, our progressive women's unions affiliated to the young Bund. They hoped, in working together with the moderate and even backward elements, to interest these in the

proper modern aspirations of women, and to cultivate in them understanding for enlarged social women's work, and, above all, to arouse the ideas in them of the economic, social and moral emancipation of our sex, and—in correspondence with the enlarged horizon—to widen the sphere of their common work gradually in such a way that in the end all departments of the modern woman's movement may find room there. How far these hopes have been realised during these 5 years, how far we have kept step with the spirit of the times, and how far we have altogether done justice to our great tasks, will be clear to you after a survey of the development and activity of the Bund up to the present day.

Even to the most advanced leaders it was perfectly clear that, in its earliest stages of growth, we had to restrict ourselves to perfectly neutral ground, for, in agreement with the principles of the American women, the united work of the Bund had only to be that upon which we all can heartily agree. Thus, at the first initial meeting in Berlin, in March 1894, to which 34 unions from all parts of Germany had sent delegates—Firstly, it was decided to induce all larger communities throughout the country to establish kinderorte, that is to say, homes for children, in which they can be received, and where they are well taken care of out of school hours, whilst their mothers are at work ; secondly, a movement was set on foot to provide women inspectors in all German States. As regards the first point, I am sorry to say, nothing has been accomplished yet, and up till now the municipalities have shewn themselves indifferent, and thus this important social work is mostly left to the voluntary activity of private societies.

I shall return later to the question of women inspectors.

At the above-mentioned meeting, the Constitution and Bye-laws of the Bund were discussed and decided upon, an Executive Committee was elected, consisting of 9 members. The esteemed pioneer in our German movement, Fräulein Augusta Schmidt, was unanimously voted for as President, as treasurer and secretaries, the founders of the Bund, Frau Simson, Frau Bieber Boehm and Fräulein Förster. At the Convention which took place, in 1895, in Munich, already 65 associations had joined the Bund. There was further a most gratifying and significant progress to record, as the Bund had taken up into its programme the most important women's questions—the question of legal conditions of women, the questions of temperance and prostitution. Further,

the formation of special Commissions for the working in these departments had become necessary. This work consisted partly in the distribution of enlightening pamphlets to mothers, teachers and educators, partly in sending in petitions to the respective legislative and administrative corporations of all German States concerning reforms and regulations in education and legislation. These agitations met with general attention, and partly also with great approval by Press and public opinion. The bi-annual meeting, which took place, 1896, in Cassel, rendered, in more than one point of view, the gratifying proof that the idea of the Bund had firmly taken root in the different Unions. The common danger threatening in the New Civil Code had undoubtedly brought the adherents of different parties closer together, and had aroused that feeling of solidarity which had so long been lacking, which expressed itself in all discussions and resolutions in this well-attended meeting by a general unanimity in work. Besides this moral success, the organisation of the Bund, which included now 76 unions, had become inwardly and outwardly strengthened. A good deal of positive work was accomplished, and more was in preparation for the next 2 years. To the commission which existed, already 2 new ones were added—1 for education, and 1 for inquiring into the social and industrial condition of shop-girls. The chief activity of the Bund, however, concentrated itself at that time in renewed and enforced agitation against different clauses in the New Civil Code, by which the legal disability of the married woman was confirmed again for ages to come. New resolutions were taken, and petitions were sent to Parliament, and meetings of protest were resolved upon by the Bund and carried out by the different Unions at the last moment, before the adoption of the New Code. This demonstration of women, hitherto unheard of in Germany, showed clearly how, during a short period of two years, even the most timid Unions had absorbed the idea of the women's movement, and how, by united working in a few departments, the recognition of the inner connection of *all* women, interests and aspirations were awakened and carried on. The two following years of work, especially the last bi-annual meeting in Hamburg in the autumn of 1898, confirmed this still more. The number of the unions of the Bund had increased to 105. The very large participation and the numerous motions of the Unions proved the great interest in the work of the Bund. These motions showed partly very clearly and distinctly that our German leaders not only foresee the ultimate

results of the woman's movement, but also that they acknowledge the end they have in view. It is of the greatest significance that just these motions met with most sympathy. In adopting unanimously the motions proposed by Danzig, that the Bund should stand up, firstly, for full freedom for associations and public meetings; secondly, for the co-operation of women in Municipal and Poor Law work, the Bund has taken the first official step upon the until now strictly avoided political ground; and with the also unanimously carried resolution of adopting in its programme the question of arbitration, we have acknowledged the ultimate consequences of the realisations of our aspirations.

The work of the Bund is divided at present amongst 7 Commissions—for labour legislation, for legal questions, for equal moral standard, for temperance, for education, for opening up industrial employment for women, and for protection of children. It is self-evident that our activity consists, for the present, chiefly in propagandist work—the enlightenment of women and of public opinion, and the awakening of public conscience, the distribution of pamphlets, communications, resolutions, petitions, etc., as long as other means of obtaining recognition and of converting our principles into action are denied to us.

However, we have also to report visible, practical results, especially in the departments of labour legislation and civil rights. To the activity of the first-mentioned Commission may chiefly be ascribed the fact that in some German States, as Bavaria and Hessen, women inspector assistants are already appointed, and in others, as Baden, Würtemburg and Reuss—and it is to be hoped also in Prussia—these appointments are to be expected. And it is owing only to the energetic agitation in the legal question that we have to record, amongst other not unessential improvements in the New Code, the great acquisition that in future the married as well as the unmarried woman will be admitted to the right of guardianship, and appointed thereto under the same conditions as men.

But much higher than all practical results we value the ideal ones we owe to our young Bund. The German women's movement has united *through* it and *in* it into a great national whole. It has become a factor with which public opinion, Press and legislators have to reckon, and do reckon. The progress which has been made in this respect during the last 5 years in Germany surpasses our own boldest expectations. We say to-day, quietly, and as a matter of course, what a short time ago we scarcely



FRU HIERTA RETZIUS.

*President of the National Council of Women of Sweden.*

[*To face p. 104.*



ventured to think. What, however, has most value for us is, that the Bund has cultivated not only the understanding of the modern woman's duties and tasks, and aroused in us a social conscience, and promoted amongst us the recognition of solidarity, but it has also taught us to extend our aims continually, and, on the ground of our new duties, to demand new rights for our sex.

## Sweden (1896-1899).

Presented by **Fru Anna Hierta-Retzius**, President.

THE National Council of Women of Sweden was originated in January 1896, being initiated by Miss Ellen Fries, Doctor of Philosophy, on purpose to become a Federated National Council, incorporated with that of the International Council, founded in Washington in 1888. Its aim is to bring the various associations in Sweden, under whose guidance women can enter, into closer relationship by means of an organised union; but no society entering our National Council sacrifices thereby its individuality in aim and method of procedure.

A full and comprehensive set of rules have been compiled and adopted.

The officers constituting the actual Executive are:—President, **Mrs Anna Hierta-Retzius**; Vice-President, **Dr Ellen Fries**; Recording Secretary, **Miss Hanna Anderson**; Corresponding Secretary, **Miss Ellen Whitlock**; and Treasurer, **Miss Hulda Lundin**.

There are at present 12 societies federated to the Swedish National Council, representing very diverse purposes and interests. The number of individuals which these federated bodies represent amounts to more than 10,000, which, considering that there are still several large "societies for women" not yet affiliated, covers no small sphere of action.

The federated societies are the following:—Beginning with our greatest actual woman's society, The Fredrika Bremer Society, founded in 1885, in memory of our great Swedish authoress, Miss Fredrika Bremer, by several of her friends, but, above all, by Baroness Sophia Aldersparre. Among the problems which this society has sought to solve, I may here name—procuring and allotting endowments to women; the bettering of the

salaries paid to women ; extension of interest in women's communal life ; training and improvement of nurses adopted for country places, etc., etc. The society issues its own special review, and has a bureau in Stockholm, with branches in the country districts ; there information is left affecting all questions of importance for educated women.

Two large institutions for philanthropy have federated, namely, The Charity Organisation Society of Stockholm, which, founded upon the model and plans of the C.O.S. in London, organises different kinds of charity and aims to diffuse sound and rational principles of philanthropy. The Grand Governor of Stockholm, Baron G. Tamm, is president, Mrs Agda Montelius, who represents this society in our National Council, is vice-president.

The other affiliated philanthropic institution is called "Arbetsstugor for barn," work-cottages for children, founded in 1886, the Central Committee of which has its headquarters in Stockholm. It has for its aim the giving to poor children of tender years (7-14 years of age) a practical manual training, and thus prevent them becoming beggars, by teaching them various kinds of useful work, and, above all, the love of work ; schools of this kind have been successful in saving thousands of children. I am going to read at this Congress a special paper, dealing with this institution, on the 30th of June.

The Friends of Art Handiwork is a society founded for the purpose of promoting and reviving our own peculiar Swedish national home textile industry which exists among our rural population, and dates from the most remote heathen times ; to revive and to apply to modern use old national designs found in peasant weaving and national costumes, still in use in many provinces in Sweden ; to give an artistic character to industrial art work ; to procure patterns and materials for the workers in distant parts of the country ; and to sell their handiwork.

Three women's clubs are federated to our National Council, namely :—

One literary, art and social club, Nya Idun, the aim of which is to bring together, by means of monthly social gatherings, women moving in different spheres of action.

The next is the Women's Club, which, besides possessing the objects mentioned in connection with Nya Idun, has permanent club-rooms and is of a more democratic character. Miss Hanna Anderson, our recording secretary, is the President of this club.



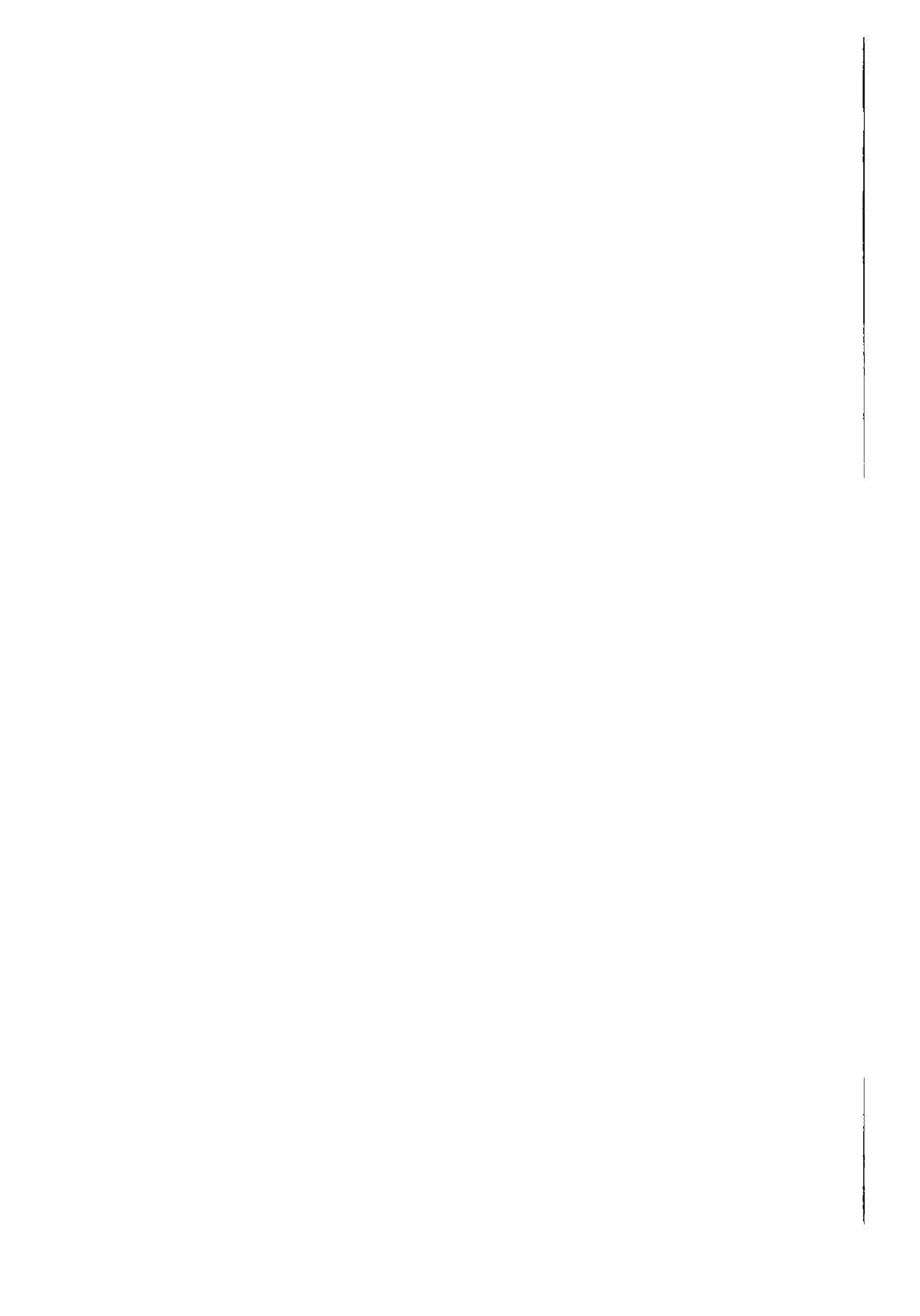
FRÖKEN ELLEN WHITLOCK.



FRÖKEN GERTRUD ADELBOORG.

*Official Delegates from the National Council of Women of Sweden.*

[*To face p. 106.*



The third society of this kind is the Stockholm Gymnastic Club for Women. It is a union of the numerous ladies who are engaged in gymnastic work.

The Swedish Women's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the purposes of which embrace great literary and practical activity, has also federated. Its President is the Countess Anna Ruuth, who is a member of the National Council Committee.

The Women's Peace Association, represented in our Council by its founder and President, Mrs Emilie Broomé, strives to work for the growing of the ideas of peace.

A large society of 4500 members, which latterly has become associated with the National Council, is the Swedish Women's Society for the Defence of our Country, founded in 1884, which has since tried to kindle and sustain a warm, self-sacrificing love for the Fatherland. Its President is the wife of our Minister for War, Baroness Anna Rappe, also a member of the committee of our Council.

A federated society devoted to education is The Union of the Girls' Schools for Secondary Education in Gothenburg.

The Circulating Library Society of Stockholm, founded in 1866 by several ladies in order to furnish reading-rooms and a good library for women, has also joined in with our National Council. Its representative there is Dr Ellen Fries.

The Executive of the Swedish National Council has, notwithstanding its being actively engaged in the organisation and federation of sundry other societies, also taken up and discussed several problems in regard to the "women question," having for its object the amelioration of the condition and position of the working women.

The Swedish National Council has arranged a subscription in aid of the wounded at the Greco-Turkish War, and worked for the sending there of some Swedish nurses, operating in conjunction with the Grecian Women's National League.

Our National Council's most weighty undertaking has been, nevertheless, the Women's Conference in Stockholm on the 23rd September 1897, in connection with the last Industrial Exhibition of Stockholm. The Conference was attended by a number of Sweden's more prominent women of diverse factions, and also taking part did women of note from Denmark, Norway, Finland and Germany, about 300 being present in all.

Meetings were held under the direction of the President, Mrs

Ellen Anckarsvärd. There discourses were held by Swedish speakers upon the Charity Organisation's plans and means, upon the Swedish woman's proper position, and other topics; "Under which Suppositions can Women's Movements become of Real Significance for Culture and Advancement"? on "Protection of Animals as a Stage in the Development of Culture." A Norwegian, Miss Gina Krog, spoke on matters concerning "Women in Norway"; and a Finnish lady, Miss Louisa Hagman, on "Co-Education." A Danish lady, Mrs Elizabeth Selmer, gave a discourse on "Women's Work for Temperance and Morality," which called forth a long and interesting discussion. Finally, the various societies which are federated in the National Council gave accounts of their activity in working.

The meeting's discourses and discussions met with hearty approbation, and the Conference contributed to the spreading in wide circles of interest concerning the questions that were treated there.

## Great Britain.

Presented by the Lady Battersea on behalf of **Mrs Alfred Booth, President.**

**REPORT** of the past five years' work of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, federated in 1897 to the International Council of Women through its Council, which thus became the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland.

THE National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, which has existed for 10 years, has done much during the past 5 years to consolidate and to develop its work.

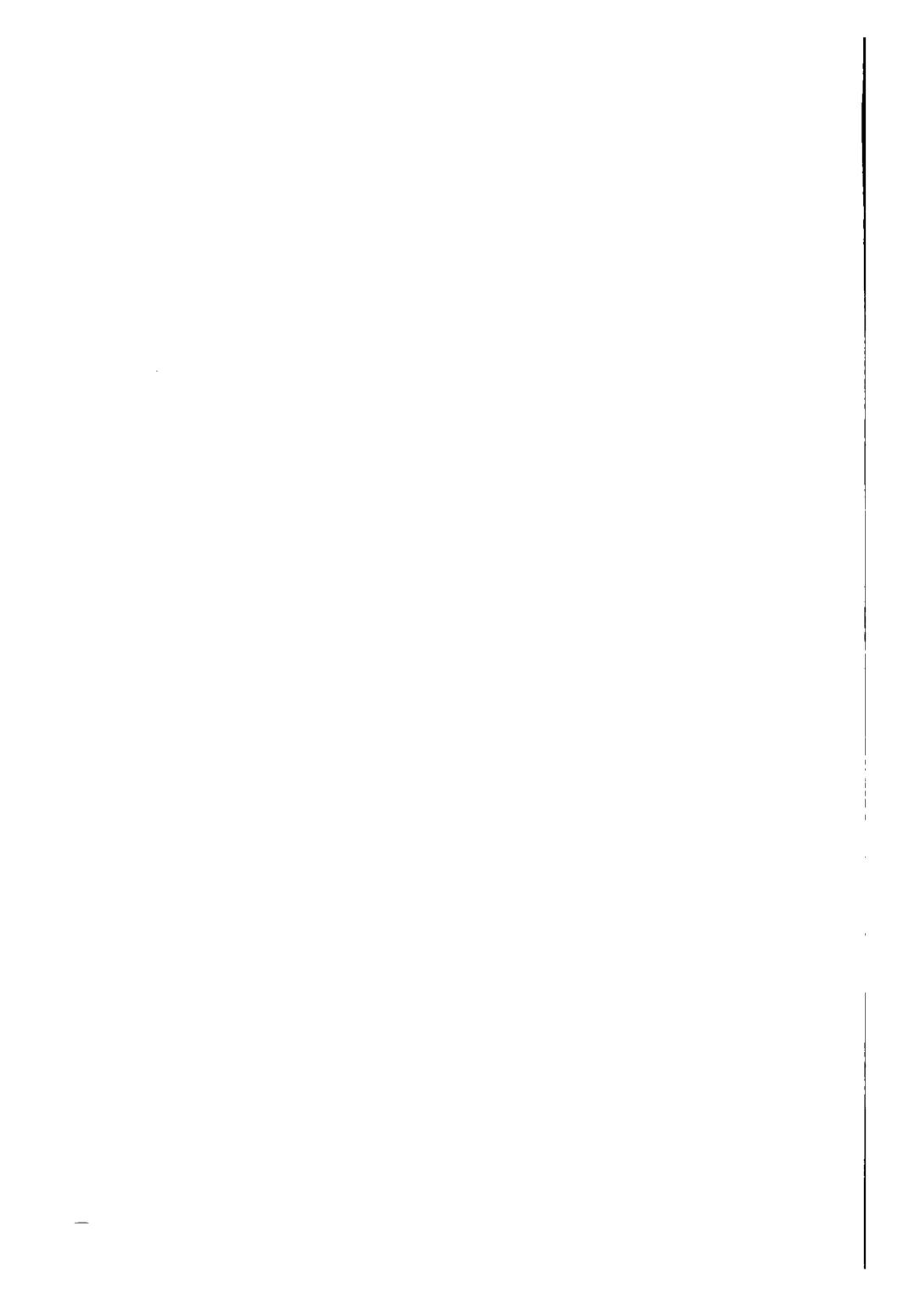
It has formed a Constitution and Bye-Laws, started sub-committees, and done much other work, mention of which is made in the second edition of its Handbook, price 3d., which may be obtained at the Hall of the National Union of Women Workers, in the Bookroom at the Church House, and to which we would refer those who desire to trace our past history. The body of representative women formerly termed the General Committee of the National Union of Women Workers became, in 1897, on our federation with the International Council, the



MRS. ALFRED BOOTH.

*President of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, 1908-09, and Convenor of Finance Sectional Committee for the International Congress.*

(Photo by Elliott & Fry.)



National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland. This body elects the Executive of the Union, considers resolutions of which due notice has been given, is alone capable of altering the Constitution of the Union, and is the final court of appeal for any society desiring to enter the Council, should it have been refused that privilege by the Executive. The Council delegates much of its authority to the Executive, which *must* meet quarterly, and *may* meet as often as is necessary for urgent business. The Executive, again, appoints sub-committees for special branches of work, and the formation of these sub-committees has been of great value to the Union. They are composed of experts on the subjects with which they deal, together with two members of the Executive Committee, and they report quarterly to the Executive and annually to the National Council.

No one can be added as a member of a sub-committee without the consent of the Executive, but each elects its own convener and secretary. Eight sub-committees were formed in 1896, two in 1897, three in 1898, and one will be formed in July 1899.

The sub-committees already at work are—

- The Legislation Sub-Committee.
- The Industrial Sub-Committee.
- The Literature Sub-Committee.
- The Rescue and Preventive Sub-Committee.
- The Indian and Colonial Sub-Committee.
- The Men and Boys' Sub-Committee.
- The Girls' Club Sub-Committee.

A Children's Sub-Committee will be formed in July 1899. Yet another, the Educational Sub-Committee, is in abeyance. The Executive lays much stress on the value of the patient, detailed work of these Sub-Committees as authoritative centres of information and of help. For example, the Legislation Sub-Committee, which keeps careful watch of all measures brought before Parliament affecting the interests of women and children, is a model of conscientious work, and is doing much to bring these matters before the branches of the Union.

The Employment Sub-Committee was dissolved in 1898 in consequence of the formation of the Central Employment Bureau, 60 Chancery Lane, of which Mrs Creighton was the first President. The Bureau has separate funds, but it reports its work to us. So also do the Joint Committee for Lectures on Charitable

and Social Work and the Associated Registries' Guild. Both have funds of their own and distinct organisation.

It is probable that Sub-Committees will largely increase as women group themselves more definitely, professionally and otherwise. The Domestic Science Sub-Committee has formed an Association of Teachers of Domestic Science, which held its annual Conference last Saturday, and the Ladies' Associations for the Care of Girls, which will hold their annual meeting on July 4th, are very closely connected with the National Union of Women Workers and its Council. It was the impetus given to women's work for women by Miss Ellice Hopkins, the founder of Ladies' Associations for the Care of Girls, which formed the foundation for the whole of the work of our National Council in its earlier stages.

The branches of the National Union of Women Workers (its Local Councils) have grown in numbers, and we have now 26 of these influential bodies in very close connection with us.

Those of "the new model"—for example, those in Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester—are as wide in their aims as the central body, which they preceded in point of time. "The Federation of Local Unions of Workers," as they were formerly called, was an important step in the formation of the National Union.

We have always encouraged the adhesion of societies and of individuals in places where no branch of the Union exists, in the hope that they would form the nucleus for a future branch.

The great majority of women's societies in Great Britain have joined our Union.

The Union published an Annual Report, which include the papers read at its Conferences. The Reports for 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897 and 1898 may be obtained at our bookstall, at a reduced price, by those desirous of completing their *sets*, or of seeing of what stuff our Conferences have been made. As books of reference they are in considerable request, as are the brief reports of those Conferences of rescue workers, which are also included in our annual gathering.

We also publish as our organ a quarterly occasional paper, and tracts of a useful kind. Those published, so far, are of special value to district visitors and other friends of the poor. They are—(1) On Out-Relief; (2) On Sanitation; (3) On the Legal Difficulties of the Poor; (4) Children's Country Holidays; (5) The Administration of Charitable Relief; (6) Girls' Clubs; (7)



MRS. CREIGHTON.

*Official Delegate from National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and Hostess of the International Council and Congress of Women at a Garden Party at Fulham Palace, Saturday, July 1st, 1899.*

(Reproduced from "Womanhood.")

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Approved Methods of Thrift ; and (8) A few Hints for the Management of Committee Work. An edition of "Legal Difficulties, adapted to the Law of Scotland," was published at the request of the Edinburgh Branch of the Union.

The Council passed resolutions—(1) at its meetings at Nottingham, in 1895, on the Criminal Law ; (2) at London, in 1896, on the Truck Act ; (3) at Manchester, in 1896, on the formation of a Children's Department under the Local Government Board ; (4) at Manchester, 1896, on the Registration of Midwives ; (5) another, at the same meeting, on the Armenian Atrocities ; and (6) one at Croydon, in 1897, on the Recent Legislation dealing with the Health of the Army in India. Resolutions so passed by the Council alone dictate a policy to the Executive, and are pressed by it upon the branches.

The office of the Union at 59 Berners Street, where visitors are gladly welcomed, is used for committee meetings, for interviews, for the transaction of a large correspondence, and as our publishing office and store-rooms. Postage expenses in 1897 amounted to £56, 2s. 4d., which represents an average of over £1 a week for the despatch of letters and papers. The staff is at present quite inadequate to properly carry on a work with so many ramifications and covering so wide an area, which grows, and is likely to grow, into a complete organisation of importance in the life of the nation. Meantime the work cannot stand still, and the committee confidently hopes for such a growth in the membership of the Union as will enable it to cope with the increasing demands upon its resources.

There is a Finance Sub-Committee. The honorary treasurer is Mrs George Cadbury, Northfield Manor, Birmingham.

Mrs Goodeve, our first honorary treasurer, retired from the pressure of other work in 1898, much to our regret.

Mrs Creighton was President of the National Union of Women Workers in 1895, 1896 and 1897. Mrs Alfred Booth in 1898 and 1899. To both these ladies the Union is deeply indebted for wise counsels, sustained work and half-sacrificing zeal in our cause. Mrs Booth is, we regret to say, unequal to the fatigue of these meetings ; but we have Mrs Creighton with us as one of the delegates of the National Council. Our other delegate, Lady Laura Riddings, President of the Conference Committee at Nottingham in 1895, is the able convener of the Legislation Committee to which reference has been already made. We feel that the interests of the National Council are safe in their hands.

There is nothing of a sensational character to present to you in a report of our last 5 years' work. We believe that in a measure we are fulfilling our objects:—

1. To promote sympathy of thought and purpose among the women of Great Britain and Ireland;
2. To promote the social, civil, moral and religious welfare of women;
3. To focus and redistribute information likely to be of service to women workers;
4. To federate women's organisations, and to encourage and assist the formation of local councils and unions of women.

And we believe that our National Council has the prospect of extended usefulness if the women workers of Great Britain will strengthen our hands for the work.

Baroness Gripenberg obtained leave, as a matter of urgency, to introduce the following resolution:—

"That this meeting suspends the rule, or the standing order, which defines the time at which nominations for international offices must be sent in, and that the new Councils formed since the nomination papers were sent out be allowed to make such nominations."

She did so, she said, in the interests of the five small nations which had lately joined.

Mme. Klerck van Hogendorp (Holland) seconded.

Mrs Sewall (Vice-President), while expressing sympathy for the small nations represented in the International Council, said she thought it could hardly be asked that a standing order should be suspended to allow a Council, which might have been formed only 24 hours before its delegates were sent to the meeting, the power suggested.

After some discussion, Lady Aberdeen ruled the resolution out of order on the ground that nominations of officers had to be made by the Councils themselves by Article III. of the Standing Orders, and that the delegates would have no right to nominate without special instructions from the Council.

At the request of Miss Anthony, the President announced that an informal meeting of the Nominating Committee would be held at the close of the meeting.

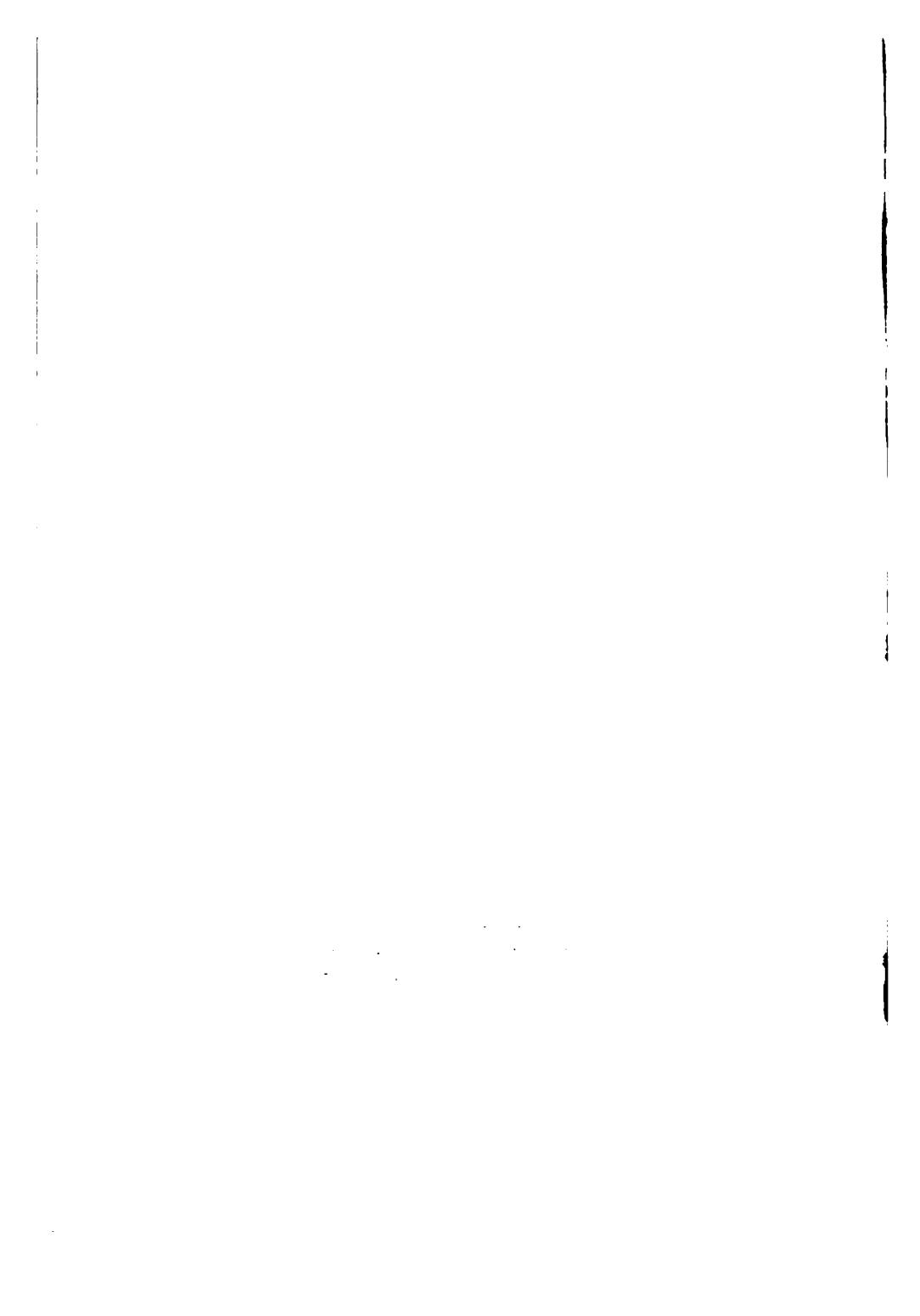


LADY LAURA RIDDING.

*Official Delegate from National Council of Great Britain and Ireland.*

(Photo by Elliott & Fry.)

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## SECOND BUSINESS SESSION OF THE QUINQUENNIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL.

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COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.

*THURSDAY, JUNE 29, MORNING.*

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THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN in the Chair.

THE Countess of Aberdeen, in opening the meeting, said that on arriving that morning they were met by very sad tidings. One of the most valued members of the Congress, Mrs Ellen Johnson, soon after reading the paper which attracted so much interest on Tuesday, was taken ill, and had passed away. Mrs Creighton had a letter which gave further details, and she would ask her to read it.

Mrs Creighton said the letter was from Mrs Talbot, wife of the Bishop of Rochester. She stated that Mrs Johnson, after being quite especially bright and well at breakfast, was taken ill, and her heart failing, she died at 11 o'clock. Mrs Creighton moved a vote of sympathy to Mrs Johnson's friends, and of admiration of her noble work, which was seconded by Lady Battersea.

Miss Anthony supported the motion.

Mrs Sewall, in supporting the motion, spoke in terms of high appreciation of Mrs Johnson's character and work, and said the Council would be interested to know that the Governor of Massachusetts, in a letter which he wrote giving leave of absence,

said that he felt that Massachusetts was less safe in Mrs Johnson's absence than in that of any other officer of the commonwealth.

The resolution ran as follows :—

“That the Council desires to express its deep sense of the loss sustained by the sudden death of Mrs Johnson, and its heartfelt sympathy with Mrs Johnson's friends, as well as its warm admiration of her noble life's work,”

and was put and carried, all rising to their feet as a token of respect.

The minutes of the previous session were then read, and some corrections made, after which they were duly signed by the President.

**Mrs Armitage** (New South Wales) asked why she had received no notice of the meeting of the Nominating Committee the previous day.

A similar question was put by the representatives of New Zealand and of Tasmania.

**Miss Anthony**, as Convener, explained that she had not the addresses of the members of committee, but that notice had been given at a preliminary meeting which had been held at the close of the Council Meeting, as announced from the Chair; and personal application was made to everybody who could be found. There were 7 present out of 9 or 10 who were qualified, the 3 absent being New Zealand, Tasmania and New South Wales. She greatly regretted that it was not possible to reach all of them.

The President said she stated that Miss Anthony would like the committee to meet her afterwards in the corner of the room. It was there, she thought, that the meeting was arranged. If they were an incorporated body, it would not be then a legal meeting. She did not know whether Miss Anthony would agree to have a meeting called again.

**Miss Anthony** said she would be glad to have the meeting over again, and have the secretary to read the business through, and see if the three absentees agreed to what was done.

By permission of the meeting the Nomination Committee then withdrew.

In reply to a question the President announced that the election of officers would take place on Tuesday, July 4th.

**Mrs Sewall** drew attention to the fact that the agenda for Wednesday 28th included the election of officers, and the agenda





MRS. D. E. ARMITAGE.

*Acting President on behalf of Viscountess Hampden, President of the  
National Council of New South Wales.*



MRS. DIXSON.

*Delegate*

*Official Delegates from the National Council of New South Wales.*

*[To face p. 115.]*

for Thursday the 29th was simply the unfinished business from Wednesday.

**Mrs Creighton** said the order of business was to be determined by the Council. She moved, seconded by **Miss Shaw**,—

“That the elections take place on Tuesday morning, and that the result be announced on Wednesday.”

Carried.

Reports from the following National Councils were read:—

## New South Wales (1895-1899).

Presented by **Mrs D. E. Armitage**, Hon. Secretary.

ON 7th November 1895 a preliminary meeting was called by **Mrs Margaret Windeyer**, in Sydney, to discuss the desirability of forming a National Council for New South Wales. This lady had represented the Colony at the Chicago Exhibition in 1893, and had been appointed Vice-President. The meeting was well attended by many representative women. After three other preliminary meetings for consideration of the constitution and of the best course to adopt, a large public meeting was held at the Town Hall, Sydney, on 26th June, which was attended by between 200 and 300 persons. Viscountess Hampden occupied the chair, and speeches in favour of the movement were made by **Miss Windeyer**, **Miss Macdonald**, **M.A.**, myself and others. It was unanimously resolved to form a Council, and several societies promised to join. Viscountess Hampden was elected President.

The first meeting of the Council was held on 26th August 1896, from which time dates the formation of the National Council of Women of New South Wales. **Lady Renwick**, who has always taken the greatest interest in the work, and who is our valued Vice-President, read a paper on the value of such a federation of organisations. A favourite saying of hers is that the women of New South Wales have shown the men what federation means by the formation of this society, and from the reports in the papers of recent events in Sydney, by which we learn that the Federal Enabling Bill has been passed by a large majority, we may, if we like, flatter ourselves that our good example has been followed. Australia will soon be no longer a group of colonies, but on the way to become a great nation by

the adoption of Federation. At the meeting on 26th August I was elected Treasurer, having previously represented the Short-hand Writers' and Typists' Society. It was decided to have two meetings every year, in May and November, and an executive meeting whenever necessary.

At the second meeting, in November 1896, Miss Windeyer was appointed as delegate to represent us on the Committee of Arrangements of the International Council of Women to be held in London in 1897, as she was leaving for Europe almost immediately.

On 26th May 1897, at the third meeting at which Lady Hampden presided, an interesting paper on domestic education for girls was read by Miss Montefiore, and after an animated discussion the following resolution was passed :—

"That this meeting of the National Council of Women desires to express its opinion that domestic economy should take a more important place in the education of girls than at present, and that a sub-committee be appointed to draw up a report on the subject for presentation at the next meeting."

This sub-committee accordingly made inquiries, and found that in 1896 only 1302 girls had attended the cookery classes held at the public schools, and that at the Technical College a very small number attended the classes for cookery and ironing. The Press of Sydney took the matter up very warmly, recommending that more cookery should be taught to girls, and several ladies held drawing-room meetings to obtain an expression of opinion from the women in their particular district, and all agreed that more instruction was needed to the class that seemed to require it most. At an executive meeting held on 21st October 1896, I see that a letter was read from Lady Aberdeen, in which she said that Miss Windeyer's presence at the International Executive Meeting had been a great help. The honorary secretary reported having visited New Zealand, where she had made acquaintance with representatives of the National Council.

At the fourth meeting of the Council reports were read from each of the affiliated societies, which were afterwards condensed and printed in pamphlet form. Miss Macdonald, M.A., presented the complete report on Domestic Education, giving the centres for instruction, etc. The majority of the sub-committee thought that the teaching of cookery should be enforced. At a meeting of the Executive in March 1898, Miss Rose Scott mentioned that since the Council took this matter in hand one school

of cookery had been re-opened and two others started, and again, another has been opened at Singleton lately, I understand. A deputation to the Minister for Public Instruction on this matter was held on the 17th October, which was introduced by Mr See, M.L.A., and attended by Lady Renwick, Vice-President, the honorary secretary and representatives from all the societies affiliated with the National Council, as well as by representatives from the Housewife's Guild, which had lately been formed. The honorary secretary gave a report of what information had been obtained, showing that only one girl in 100 attending the public schools was able to learn cookery, and the deputation asked that the department would increase the number of centres. The minister gave the deputation a very cordial reception, and said that he would take the matter into his consideration and see what could be done with a view of increasing the number of children receiving instruction in cookery.

The fifth meeting was held on 27th May 1889, at which Miss Rose Scott read an interesting paper on "Arbitration as opposed to War," after which she moved "That the National Council of Women deplores the spirit of war abroad at present on the earth, and advocates the principles of peace and arbitration." This was carried unanimously, and so you will see that even this great question, which has since that time made such leaps and bounds, has been considered by the Council of New South Wales.

In November 1898 the hon. secretary attended on behalf of the Council a deputation to the Colonial Secretary, asking that female attendants might be provided to look after the women at lock-ups. Action was immediately taken by the Government, and several women have been appointed.

On November 18 the sixth half-yearly meeting was held. Miss Manning attended on behalf of the Housewife's Guild, and gave an outline of the plan which the guild had drawn up to present to the minister. Mrs Dane read a paper on kindergarten work, and Miss Buckeye reported as to what had been done in Sydney amongst the poor. The secretary read some notes on Domestic Education and Agriculture for Women, with the idea of bringing the matter before the Department of Agriculture. Miss Rose Scott read a paper on early closing, and a motion was passed:—

"That the National Council of Women pledges itself to support with all its influence every effort made to support early closing for the shopwomen and shopmen in New South Wales."

At this meeting it was also decided to affiliate with the International Council, and a Finance Sub-Committee was appointed.

The Council at present consists of nine societies, which cover a large field of work. They are :—

1. Women's Christian Temperance Union.
2. The Society for the Education of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind.
3. Womanhood Suffrage League of New South Wales.
4. Working and Factory Girls' Club.
5. Ministering Children's Fresh Air League.
6. Sydney University Women's Association.
7. The Women's Hospital and Dispensary.
8. Women's Silk Growing and Industrial Association.
9. Early Closing Association.

Though our Council is a small one, for it must be remembered that the whole population of New South Wales is only some 1,348,000 people, and that of Sydney about 4,000,000 souls, though the area of land which it covers is 310,700 square miles, an extent of territory five or six times the size of England and Wales put together, we feel we have done some good work since we started our career, and fully justify our existence. May we grow and grow as the years go by, and may the influence of the Council for good be felt farther and wider as time goes on.

This report I beg to submit on behalf of New South Wales.

## Denmark.

Presented by Fru Charlotte Norrie, Corresponding Secretary.

THE Danish National Council of Women is quite a young baby; it is not yet 3 months old. It made its entrance into the world on the 5th March at 2.30 p.m., and its first weight showed 8 destitute homes, 8 associations. Seven to 8 pounds is reckoned a good weight for a normal, new-born boy, and more for a girl, and though the baby is not yet 3 months old, it



FRÖKEN HENRIE FORCHAMMER

*Acting President for Fröken Ida Falbe Hansen, President of the Council.*

(Photo by Dana, Copenhagen.)



FRÖKEN WILHELMINA RERUP.

*Delegate.*



FRU CHARLOTTE NORRIE.

*Delegate.*

*Official Delegates from the National Council of Women of Denmark.*

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has nearly doubled its weight; now 15 associations have affiliated.

The mothers of the baby had decided that we should pass the spring and summer in seeking information about the management of other National Councils of Women, and for this purpose as many of us who have been able to do so have come here to London.

Our wish to pass 6 months quietly in the nursery was however disturbed. Nobody may live in peace when his neighbour does not approve of it; and Frau Selenka decided to disturb our peace in asking the women of the whole world to arrange peace meetings.

A member of one of the affiliated associations got a letter from Dr A. A. asking her to act as centre for the peace movement in Denmark, and this lady, Mrs Mienstadt, went immediately to the Danish National Council of Women. It was on the 12th of April—the baby was about 5 weeks old.

On the 19th the Council met. We gave an account of the question and asked: "Are Danish women to be conspicuous by their absence in this World's Women's Peace Choir?" The unanimous answer was: "No, the Danish women wish to join their voice in the choir." The next question was: "Which association will join to arrange a meeting at Copenhagen?" And again the answer came with unanimity: "We will all join in this first question put before the Council; the Danish National Council of Women shall arrange the meeting at Copenhagen, and ask Women's Associations in the rest of the kingdom to arrange meetings too."

Though the committee was and is still of opinion that the National Councils of Women are organised in the service of no one propaganda, we deemed it most loyal to obey the unanimous wish of the Council.

Unanimity, you know, is not likely to happen every day, so there is not much reason to oppose it. The members of the committee did not vote that day.

The committee was reinforced for the preparations of the meeting; we met twice or thrice and decided to arrange a decent little quiet meeting, becoming to the young baby.

But one day an idea arose in the mind of one of the ladies we had asked to speak at the meeting.

Bjornshjerne Bjorsoson, the Norwegian poet, had written an oratory—"Peace." Edward Grieg was to compose the music for it, but he had not.

Would it be possible to have some music composed for this occasion?

Off went this lady to Miss Shekla Griebel, who seized the idea most eagerly, and 12 hours later the music for a fragment of the oratory was ready; the copying began at once, and the committee was summoned to meet and talk over how we might have it sung. We had hired a little hall for the meeting; but if we were going to have some singing, we had to arrange it on a larger scale. So we advertised on 3rd May in the daily papers that the Danish National Council of Women asked singing ladies to meet and sing an oratory at the Peace Meeting on the 15th of May under the direction of Miss Fanny Goetje.

The ladies came, and it was so lucky that there were many splendid sopranos amongst the voices, for the music requires them. And then we hired the largest concert hall of Copenhagen, the large hall of the concert palace, a fine hall in white painting with gold, and provided with splendid electric light.

On the platform about 80 young ladies, dressed in white, were assembled to sing; the pulpit was ornamented with flowers, and the whole arrangement had a real festival character. One of our papers said the meeting had almost the character of a religious service. Nearly every place was taken, and with the greatest interest the compliments exchanged between the women of the whole world read by Miss Marie Luplan were heard.

Telegrams from 18 persons in Denmark arrived.

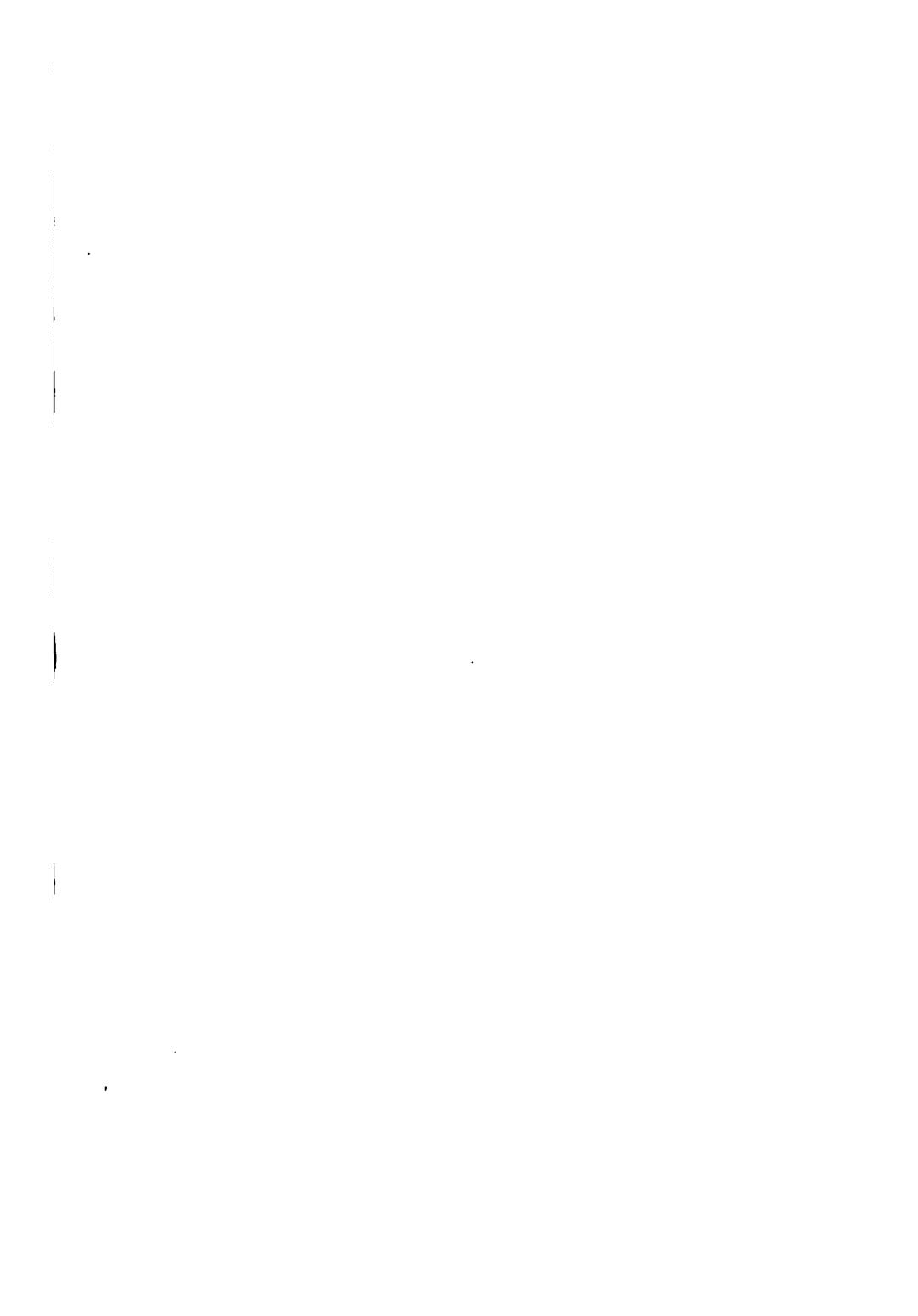
Then came the first part of the oratory. Mrs F. M. and Mrs N. spoke about the great question of peace on earth, and then the Danish women's address to the Peace Conference at the Hague was put before the meeting and carried with acclamation, while all present rose to their feet.

The second part of the oratory was sung and received most enthusiastically, the composer was called forward, and it had to be repeated.

And as the Danish Council of Women has most happily achieved its *début*, and till this moment this has been its only task.

In September the Council will meet, the proposed laws will be treated, and the plans for the education of the infant will be laid.

We think we have begun well, and well begun is half finished we say in Denmark.





MADAME LA DOUAIRIÈRE KLERCK,

*née de Hogendorp*

*President of the National Council of Women of Holland.*

(Photo by Lariétè, The Hague.)

## Holland.

Presented by **Miss Martina G. Kramers, Corresponding Secretary.**

As there is as yet nothing to report about the doings of our National Council formed in three meetings, the last of which took place on May 24th, I deem it my duty to try and satisfy your sympathetic curiosity by a short sketch of what has been done in my country during the last half of this century for the enfranchisement of women from the bonds in which custom and law have so long held them. Any person who ever studied sociology will understand how difficult, or impossible, it is to show in chronologic succession all the links of the chain of events that have led up to the present stage of women's movement, and so I shall only venture to point out to you some of the most conspicuous names and facts that float on the surface of the mighty rushing stream.

In the year of misery 1847, when the scarcity of potatoes made pauperism a menacing demon to many families, Countess van Hogendorp, our President's mother, assisted by some ladies of high rank in the Hague, founded a philanthropic association for befriending the poor, whose object was not only to give help to the destitute, but also to visit and to console them. In the same period more and more women began to choose education for their profession, and to pass State examinations to that effect. This gave rise to demands for better training of governesses, and Mrs van Calcar succeeded by untiring efforts in awakening an interest for infant schools and kindergarten teaching. The first normal school for governesses was established in Arnhem in 1871, and the first secondary school, where girls from 12 to 18 are taught the same sciences as boys of their age, was opened in the Haarlem in 1867. These institutions were the outcome of many discussions in meetings and papers inaugurated by Mrs Storm's article about Cooper's Institute, which she had visited in New York. She was also one of the first women in Holland that appeared on the platform in public meetings, and the first that was elected member of a literary society mostly consisting of university men. Her example was soon followed by other women, who demanded access

to different professions for women, among whom was Miss E. A. Haughton.

But the best known pioneers in the years 1870-1872 were Mina Krusemann and Betsy Perk, who founded the first women's paper entitled *Our Aspirations*, the former's beauty and talents as speaker and actress, and the latter's devotion to the cause and energy, did not fail to make impression on the public. However, they had much to suffer from the taunts of those who could not hear women's emancipation mentioned without scornful sneers; and in our country as well as in others many women were among their enemies. But Miss Perk was not easily discouraged, and in 1870 she succeeded in forming an association of women, which is still existing and has for object to provide a market for work done at home by needy but educated women, besides widening their opportunities for intellectual culture. Queen Sophia consented to become patroness of this institution, and nowadays she is one of the members of our National Council. Two years after a society with similar objects was formed, which has lately enlarged its scope by the institution of intelligence offices. Since 1865 industrial schools for young women are being established, where dressmaking, fine ironing and book-keeping are taught. They are all founded by subscriptions of persons who feel how much they are needed, and get small subventions from State and Municipal Treasury. Nor is the professional education of boys sufficiently provided for in the Netherlands. In 1871 Aletta Jacobs was inscribed as the first female student of medicine at the University of Groningen, where she graduated in 1879, and now our four universities have such a considerable number of female students in different branches of science. In the first year of her exercise of the medical profession in Amsterdam, Dr Aletta Jacobs asked that her name should be put on the list of electors, which presumption was punished by the introduction into Article 80 of the State Constitution of 1887 of the word *male* before "voters" in the qualification of those who are entitled to have their wisdom consulted in the governing of the country.

Whilst the number of professions in which women can gain their livelihood is constantly growing, and we see them now as telegraphers, apothecaries, etc., whilst the female candidates for the teachers' examinations are beginning to outnumber the men, we have still very few years of public activity of women to look back upon. The first women's association that ventured to hold



MRS. W. H. RUTGERS-HOITSEMA.

(Photo by Baer, Rotterdam.)



MISS MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

(Photo by L. van de Winkel, Rotterdam.)

*Official Delegates of the National Council of Women of Holland.*

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public meetings and had the courage to discuss abuses, which were to be suffered but never to be named by women according to the general opinions, was Mrs Klerck van Hogendorp's Society for Elevating the Moral Standard. Its main object is the abolishment of regulation of vice, and the spreading of conviction that there is but one moral both for men and women. Founded in 1884 at Josephine Butler's suggestion, this society undertook in 1885 and in 1890 to send monster petitions to the Government, and as religion is its strongest support, it does not despair of success in the end. Some years after more political and social objects were taken in hand by new women's associations. In 1889 Miss Drucker with four others formed the Free Women's League, which never ceases to advocate equality between the sexes, and no society of pioneers was ever more ridiculed and attacked from all sides. Miss Drucker and Mrs Schook-Haver then began to edit their paper *Evolution*, in which they gave a complete review of all that affects women in the laws and literature of our country. Since we got three or four more women's papers, one of which, *Beleny en Recht*, is the organ of three societies, whilst another, *De Vrouw*, edited by Mrs van Kol, treats the ethical side of women's emancipation, being devoted to the mutual education of mothers. In 1894 three important associations were formed. The first was the National Women's Suffrage Association, which has grown so rapidly that it now possesses 12 branch societies; then came a committee of four ladies and four gentlemen, two of whom were professors at Dutch universities and one a member of our Parliament, which has in view the amelioration of woman's position in society and law, and pursues this aim by sending petitions to Government and articles to the principal reviews. The third was the Women's League in Groningen, which uses its influence on behalf of better education and more freedom for women in every respect. As the National Women's Suffrage Association has suffrage for its only object, other associations had to be formed when women wanted to carry out other social reforms together. So in Rotterdam we founded the Society for Women's Welfare, which has contributed to the establishment of the Rotterdam Neighbourhood Guild and of two women's trades unions. Many more societies of women have been formed for widely different aims, and a great many existing associations have admitted women as members or as officers; so, for instance, some women are members of electoral societies, and have, as such, a right to vote for candidates, although by law

they may not vote for members of Parliament or of Town Councils. Altogether it is no longer such a very unusual thing to hear a woman speak from the platform.

I cannot attempt to describe in such a short report as this the different aims to which the women of Holland are devoting their energy, and, moreover, as harmony is better in keeping with the spirit of this Council than difference, I will now tell you what has more than ever drawn our efforts together and united all our labour: that was last year's Exhibition of Women's Work at the Hague. All sorts and conditions of women have contributed, after the measure of their talents, to make it the success that it was, at least for those who know it was meant not so much to show what beautiful things women could achieve as to make people feel what they aspire at, and what more careful education and better opportunities might help them to attain. Indeed, Mrs Goekoop, the president of the Exhibition, and her predecessor, Mrs Pekelharing, have induced all women workers to unite, and even before the opening of the exhibition 10 societies of women had agreed to send together a delegate to London to the meeting of the Executive of the International Council. Not long after the Exhibition a meeting, where 67 societies of women were represented, resolved that a National Council should be formed, and named a committee for drawing up a constitution. This was adopted on the 15th March, and affiliation to the Trades Congress requested, and now, on the 24th May, our Standing Orders have been adopted, and officers and delegates elected. So at this moment our National Council, which embraces 25 women's associations, stands ready to begin its action, and we hope to be encouraged by seeing what the existing National Councils have done; and although we fully realise that the task that lies before us is not a light one, we feel that the Exhibition with its Congresses has greatly advanced the woman's cause and given a new turn to the public opinion. This, however, is partly to be attributed to Mrs Goekoop's novel, *Hilda van Suylenburg*, which has had unrivalled success, and in which the author treats all the different aspects of the women's question, showing, as clear as daylight, her right to independence and individuality. This book has stirred up a legion of buzzing, humming and grumbling leaflets, pamphlets and open letters to the author, and obliged everybody to express or profess an opinion on woman's emancipation, and shaken indifference by the ears. The weightiest and most authoritative opposition came





MRS. SIDNEY WEBB.



MRS. J. MCCOSH CLARK.

(Photo by Elliott & Fry.)

*Official Delegates from the National Council of New Zealand.*

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from learned professors of neurology and ethnology, who had discovered that the organisation of a woman made her fit for all suffering, and that independence given to women would make them refuse to play the part in the family which custom and law have hitherto allotted to her. Besides this storm in our literature, another attack has been directed against "feminism," as the opponents call the demand for women's rights, by the socialists, who hold that the enfranchisement of one-half of humanity should not go before that of the three-fourths that comprises the proletarians. However, as nobody has ever yet had to choose between the two terms of this dilemma, there is hope that this antagonism may not prove very serious, and the women of the Netherlands, now in possession of their National Council, may look at the future confidently.

## New Zealand (1896-1899).

Presented by Mrs Sidney Webb, Delegate for New Zealand.

It is generally admitted that the enfranchisement of our women has forced into prominence social and humanitarian questions. These are receiving more serious attention from our Houses of Legislature than has hitherto been the case. If, then, there appears in our reports a tendency to appeal to Parliament, it is because we believe that the fulfilment of our desires for the general good is within the range of practical politics. The policy of our Executive has been to deal with the various subjects as part of a great whole. The papers treating of *Parental Responsibility* have emphasised the importance of pre-natal conditions, and the consequent need of the broadest and fullest education for motherhood.

*Education.*—This paper has been considered as next in sequence, and the points upheld in the papers read before our Council have been as follows:—(1) Free State kindergartens for children ranging from 2 to 7 years. (2) For specialisation, free art, agricultural and mining schools. (3) Free university instruction. (4) Classification of our neglected children into reformatory and industrial scholars. Reformatory and industrial schools to be made self-supporting as far as possible by farms and fruit gardens connected with the schools. Teachers to be men and women of culture.

*Marriage and Divorce.*—Our Council has always upheld the same standard of morality for men and women, and our Legislature has recently passed a law in accordance with that standard.

*Economic Independence of Married Women.*—Our Council believes that the economic question is of vital importance to the raising of the status of women in marriage. The economic equality (and consequent responsibility) of the wife with the husband has been upheld by our Council.

The following reasons have been urged in support:—

- (1) Because it is just.
- (2) Because society has a right to protect the individual.
- (3) Because it would improve the status of women.
- (4) Because it makes for women's freedom and therefore for the freedom of the race.

*The Unemployed.*—Our Council has urged the establishment of State industrial co-operative settlements, which should be made as far as possible reproductive, and in which labour should be graded according to efficiency.

*The Reform of the Criminal.*—In considering this question, our Council has passed resolutions urging that punishment should be remedial. We consider that the present system has utterly failed in this respect.

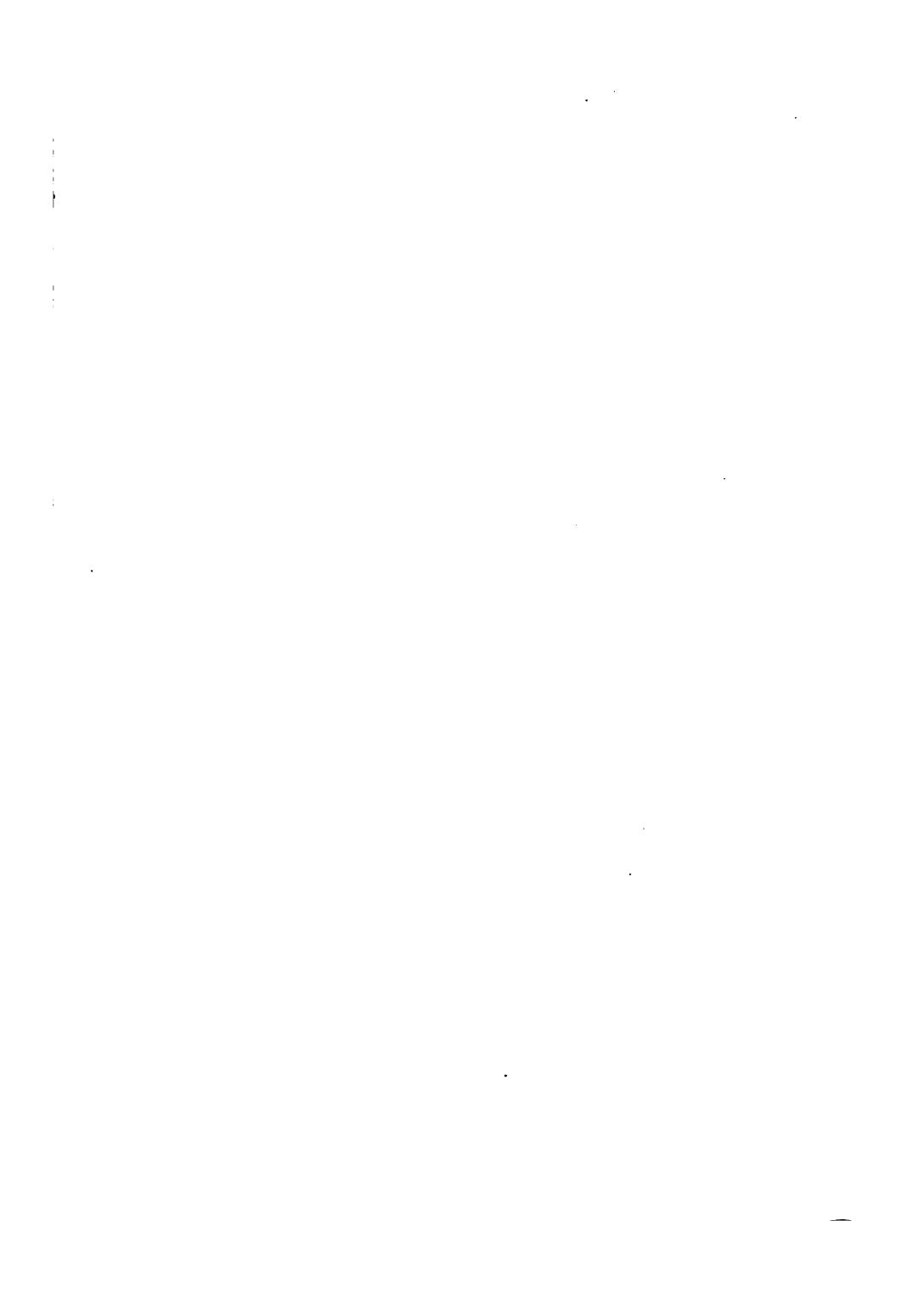
*Inebriate Homes.*—In years past our Council has recommended the establishment of inebriate homes, and the Government has, during the last session of Parliament, passed a measure for the establishment of such homes.

*Old Age Pensions.*—The Council considered that the only conditions attached to these pensions should be that the recipients be 65 years of age, and that they should have resided in the colony 25 years. The measure just passed by our Legislature imposes other conditions which exclude many aged persons from the benefit of this law.

*The Age of Protection for Women.*—Our Council has urged that the age of protection, which is now 16, should be raised to 21.

*Sale of Alcoholic Liquors.*—A resolution was passed at the last meeting of Council as follows:—

"That whereas the liquor traffic is declared, on undisputed authority, to be the cause of much misery, vice and crime, therefore this National Council of Women pledges itself, on humanitarian grounds, to do all in its power to discontinue and discountenance the importation, manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors. Scientific temperance teaching in public schools was also urged."





MRS. PEMBER REEVES.

*Appointed to represent Mrs. Sheppard, President of National Council  
of Women of New Zealand.*

(Photo by Lombardi.)



LADY HAMILTON.

*Acting President for Lady Gormanstown, President of National  
Council of Women of Tasmania.*

(Photo by H. Walter Barnett.)

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*Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act.*—Our Council has urged the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act, which it looks upon as a disgrace to our statute books.

*Local Government Reform.*—The Council has urged that the local franchise should be on the same basis as the Parliamentary franchise. During the past session the suffrage has been extended, and the first step towards the economic equality of husband and wife has been taken. While the franchise is still confined to ratepayers, yet property owned by either husband or wife entitle both to a vote.

*Peace and Arbitration.*—The Council has in years past recommended the settling of international disputes by arbitration, and a general and proportional disarmament.

*Party Government.*—Our Council has expressed its opinion at each successive meeting that “the system of party government in New Zealand has many evils connected with it, and is entirely unsuited to the circumstances of the colony.” It urged as a remedy that the House of Representatives should elect the Members of the Cabinet, who shall thus be made individually responsible to and removable by the House. Further, that each Member of the House should be free to act according to the wishes of its constituents and the dictates of his conscience, and not be the mere slave of party.

*Removal of all Women's Disabilities.*—The following resolution was unanimously carried at the last Council meeting :—

“That in the opinion of this Council the time has come when all disabilities which at present hinder women from sitting as members in either of the Houses of Legislature, or from being elected or appointed to any public office or position in the colony, should be removed, and that with regard to all powers, rights and duties of citizens, absolute equality should be the law of the land.”

We wish it to be clearly understood that the above opinions do not necessarily represent the unanimous vote of our Council members, but the majority vote.

Mrs SHEPPARD, *President.*  
Mrs SIEVWRIGHT, *Secretary.*

## Tasmania.

THE Tasmanian representatives felt that they had nothing to add to the report given the day before of the societies of work in Tasmania, when they applied for federation.

## Finland.

**Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg** (Honorary Vice-President) described in a few words the work and position of the Finland Women's Union, and showed how much in sympathy its aims were with those of the International Council. She hoped that some day it would be able to federate as a National Council.

## Belgium.

**Mlle. Marie Popelin** (Honorary Vice-President) spoke of the women's movement in Belgium, of the difficulties that stand in the way of the representatives of different sections of society uniting to form a National Council of Women. She hoped, however, that before another Quinquennial Meeting of the Council came round that there would be a National Council of Women of Belgium.

## Switzerland.

**Mlle. Camille Vidart** (Honorary Vice-President) gave an interesting account of the societies of women workers in Switzerland who were associating themselves together with the purpose of organising a National Council.

## Italy.

**Mrs Crawshay**, Representative of the Vice-President for Italy (the Countess Taverna), said she had no formal report to give, but would make a short statement. The organising secretary visited Rome early in the spring of 1897, and gave a very lucid statement which greatly interested the representative Roman ladies. They took up the idea very warmly, but it flagged a little afterwards, and nothing happened for a year. On the 2nd of May 1898, however, another meeting was held, and 34 representatives of feminine activities gave in their promise to federate once





DR. KOZAKEVITCH-STEFANOFSKY.

*Representing Mme. Anne de Philosoff.*



H. E. MADAME ANNE DE PHILOSOFOFF.

*Hon. Vice-President for Russia.*

(Photo by Pasetti, St. Petersburg.)

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the National Council was really formed. The Countess Taverna accepted the Presidency, undertook that the Council should really be organised, and a good report given at the next Quintennial Meeting. A great many of the societies rather thought they were ~~being asked to~~ <sup>asked to</sup> make a donation for their private work from alled upon to pay a fee.

behalf of Mme. Anna de men's enfranchisement, of our century, developed practical results. Within taken place in science, ivity. This increasing of a numerous associations. n for mutual aid, and its of its members during 3 necessity and want of a

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DR. KOZAKEVITCH-STEFANOFSKY.

*Representing Mme. Anne de Philosoff.*



H. E. MADAME ANNE DE PHILOSOFOFF.

*Hon. Vice-President for Russia.*

(Photo by Pasetti, St. Petersburg.)

*To face p. 129.*

the National Council was really formed. The Countess Taverna accepted the Presidency, undertook that the Council should really be organised, and a good report given at the next Quinquennial Meeting. A great many of the societies rather thought they were going to receive a donation for their private work from a great fund in London, rather than be called upon to pay a fee.

## Russia.

Dr Kosakevitch-Stephanofskiaia, on behalf of Mme. Anna de Philosoff, said: The movement for women's enfranchisement, which began at the end of the first half of our century, developed itself gradually, and gave already many practical results. Within the last 30 years Russian women have taken place in science, literature, art, and other branches of activity. This increasing of women's work gave the impulse to form numerous associations. Lately was formed a women's association for mutual aid, and its success was so great that the number of its members during 3 years reached to 2000. This shows the necessity and want of a wider union between Russian women.

Last year, in October, Russian women were informed of an International Congress of Women to be held in London, which promoted a great interest among the members of the formerly mentioned association. Its honorary president, Mme. Anna de Philosoff, undertook the task of organising a committee in order to secure for the Russian women the participation to the Congress. She was unanimously nominated president of that committee, and Mme. Boubnoff undertook the difficult business of the corresponding secretary. Having no National Council, we could not participate officially in the proceedings of the International Congress. We received in February a proposition of the International Council of Women to join several women's associations in order to appoint a delegate. Besides, the committee was empowered to send speakers to the Congress.

Meanwhile, the president of that committee, Madame Anna de Philosoff, was nominated by the International Council of Women as its Honorary Vice-President for Russia. She was prevented from coming herself, and Dr Kosakevitch-Stephanofskiaia was unanimously appointed by the committee, and by 14 joined

associations, as delegate from Russia, as well as representative of the Honorary Vice-President.

Our great association of women for mutual aid has among its members a certain number of presidents of other associations, who, we suppose, shall be able to further the idea of organising a union between different Russian women's associations. We hope, therefore, that our actual women's association for mutual aid can be considered as the nucleus of our future Russian National Council.

## Austria.

*Frau Hainisch* (Hon. Vice-President) reported as follows:—Lady Aberdeen and Ladies, I have little to say. Five months ago, when the Austrian unions received the invitation for the Council and the Congress, but few of them knew of the existence of the *International Council*. The papers which were kindly sent to Austria at first confused the minds; the Council and the Congress were confounded. This was brought to evidence at the first meeting of the Viennese unions. On this account I undertook to write a paper in German to clear up the matter. This paper was sent to all German unions in my country. At the second meeting I was asked by 15 unions from Vienna, and by 1 of Prague, to represent them in London. Some of them had resolved to join a National Council, others wanted only to be represented at the International Council to get better acquainted with its aims and proceedings.

I lay down the elaborate programmes and accounts of those unions, recommending them to your attention.

The "Wiener Frauen Erwerb Verein" is a prominent school union, and the eldest of all. The "Verein der Schriftstellerinnen und Künstlerinnen" embraces the whole empire; the best known writers and artists from Austria belong to it. The "Verein für erweiterte Frauenbildung" has founded the first "gymnasium" for girls, and has effectuated that one faculty of the university was thrown open to women. The "Allgemeine öesterreichische Frauenverein" maintains the propaganda for the suffrage. "The Verein der Lehrerinnen und Erzieherinnen" is a large union of teachers. The "Vereinigung für sociale Hilfshätigkeit" concerns several institutions for charity. The "Verein Kunstschule für Frauen



MME. VON FINKELSTEIN MOUNTFORD.

*Hon. Vice-President for Palestine.*



FRAU MARIANNE HAINISCH.

*Hon. Vice-President for Austria.*



und Mädchen" keeps an excellent school for painting and sculpture. The "Verein Frauenfortschritt," in Prague, supports schools and promotes the aims of women. The "Lese und Redeclub" trains women to be orators.

I can boldly maintain that these unions represent the intelligence of womanhood in my country. They have accepted the hand offered by you, but it will take time till the organisation gets perfect, because the political situation is against them. The antagonism between the various nations forming the Austrian Empire must be appeased before the women belonging to them can join in a National Council.

I therefore propose that you put in view three sections for the Austrian Council. Hungary is a kingdom that is governed separately, so there can be no difficulty about our Hungarian section. In regard to the "Im Reichsrathe vertretenen Königreiche und Länder—a runabout way of two sections—one German and one Bohemian seems to me indispensable.

There would be still much work left, the Austrian women not being accustomed to agitation work, and this the more as the laws in Austria are benevolent to them. Even the suffrage is not entirely withheld from them; they vote for some bodies in most of "the provinces." This makes the work hard. But, nevertheless, there is a number of women who require full rights, and who are conscious that united power and solidarity are means to elevate the condition of women, and who desire to join with you.

They had had so much to do in their own country, she was sorry to say they had not thought much about the International Council. She thought, however, it was now being recognised that to join the International Council would promote all these associations in their own country. She hoped that at the next Quinquennial Meeting they would have a National Council joined to the International.

## France.

Mme. Bogelot and Mlle. Sara Monod said they would not at that time add to what they had said of the movement in France at the opening meeting of the Congress.

## Norway.

**Froken Gina Krog** (Hon. Vice-President for Norway) said there was much life among women in the country, and much interest in women's questions. They had no associations till 1884, when a Norwegian Association for the Promotion of Women's Interests was formed, and had a very wide scope, taking up anything to promote the interests of women. In 1885 there was formed a woman's suffrage question, and now they had a nationally-organised Woman's Suffrage Association beside these others. In eight different towns they had these associations for the promotion of women's interests, which were doing much of the same work as the National Council. At the same time there was a wish to have a still wider organisation.

## India.

**Mrs Flora Annie Steel** said she had no report to give. She would respectfully suggest to the International Council if anything were to be done it should be done on somewhat different lines from any other parts of the world. They should get someone of position in the country, such as the Guakwar of Baroda, to head the movement, and they must keep it as free as possible from outside influences. Lady Hobhouse had asked her to mention the urgent need there was of female lawyers for India. She did not think anyone knew how isolated the women of India were at present. They were debarred from speaking in the courts, and she did not see how they could have justice done them unless there were female lawyers who could come and see them in their homes. The International Council could do no better work for the women of India than to advance the appointment of women lawyers.

## Victoria, South Australia, West Australia and Queensland.

THE representatives of these Colonies all expressed themselves as unable to give any report of a Council movement in the



MISS MARIE BHOR.

*Hon. Representative for India.*

(Reproduced from "Lady's Pictorial".)

[To face p. 132.



MRS. STEWART OF LOVEDALE.

*Hon. President for South Africa.*

*[To face p. 133.]*

Colonies they represented, and said they had come to watch and learn with a view of furthering the formation of National Councils later on.

## South Africa.

Mrs Stewart, of Lovedale (Hon. Vice-President), reported as follows:—I have the honour to appear before this meeting as a representative of various associations of women in South Africa. I am glad to do so, and will endeavour to give some account of work throughout the colony.

I need not dwell upon the different agencies at work in Cape Town, seeing those will be fully brought before you by Mrs Nixon. There is the great and successful work carried on at the Huguenot Girls' School at Wellington, begun 20 years ago by the Rev. Andrew Murray, who got ladies from Mount Holyoke, in America. The women's rescue work of the Salvation Army in several of the larger towns ought specially to be mentioned. Also the Women's Christian Temperance Union, whose 9th annual convention was held at Grahamstown in July of last year. As a missionary, however, I feel I ought to make special reference to work among the native races.

Africa affords a great area of work where women need help and guidance. This vast continent, which is 5000 miles long by 5000 wide, awaits all the efforts that British women can put forth, more especially upon its ignorant and degraded native population.

We have the nineteenth century civilisation with all its good and, what is very serious, all its evil sweeping in upon us. This civilisation has a good side and a bad side; the latter tends to corrupt as much as the good side tends to elevate. This specially applies to our less fortunate sisters belonging to the native tribes.

It is mostly through the various mission agencies that anything is being done to raise the native women and fit them to take their place in their new conditions of life alongside of this large white population that is now filling their land.

We all realise what Christianity, civilisation and education have done for women in this and other countries.

One of the most remarkable features of the last 30 years is

the change in the position of women, even in civilised countries. It might even be called the period of the emancipation of women. The great number of positions they now occupy, and variety of occupations they have shown themselves well qualified to fill, and the way they perform these duties, as well as the existence of this great Congress itself, is sufficient proof of this.

It is also a fact that this position has not been given to our sex as a free gift, since we have had to struggle for it all the way through.

Missionary effort to raise the women of Africa is carried on in schools or institutions where the training is thoroughly practical, and the one object of all is to turn out useful, active Christian women. Every endeavour is made to train head, hand and heart.

The Girls' Institution at Lovedale is just a sample of what is done elsewhere. It was begun 32 years ago by Dr Jane Waterson, now of Cape Town, who accompanied Dr Stewart and myself out in 1866. It was the day of small things, but with her insight into human character she soon found out what was the best method of training for those raw native girls. For they are a proud, conservative race, who think for themselves, and adhere to the ways of their heathen forefathers. These girls are trained in the general management of a house, learning cooking, cleaning, scrubbing and housework. Outdoor work is given as well, such as keeping the grounds and walks about the institution in order. They also assist in time of reaping to gather in the crops. They receive a school education which embraces the usual standard work. From that, some pass into the normal department and study for three years longer, till they gain the teacher's certificate. A few have passed the matriculation examination of the University of the Cape of Good Hope.

Alongside the purely educational part, there is the work department, where washing, ironing, sewing, cutting-out and simple dressmaking are specially taught. Most of the young women who enter this department have passed the 4th standard. They bind themselves for three years, and at the end obtain certificates, and take positions afterwards as sewing teachers in native schools. These normal and industrial classes train women, who, whether certificated teachers or not, when they return to their own homes help to raise their own people. A large number of these young women may now be found at this work of teaching in the village schools throughout South Africa,

doing humble but true useful service. Even though all is not attained that we could wish, there is no doubt but that progress is being made, and that the habits formed while at school are carried into practice in many of those distant villages. Along with this school and industrial work there are other influences, such as temperance unions, Scripture unions, white cross meetings, literary societies.

Branches of these associations are formed throughout the country by these women teachers. To measure the progress already made with the condition of things when missionaries first went out, it is sufficient to say that payment was frequently demanded by the parents for allowing their children to attend schools. They considered their children were working for the missionaries. By degrees they began to understand the advantages of education. They were willing then to take it without payment. In 1871, at Lovedale, we were the first to propose that the natives should pay a little towards their own improvement. This was done under the view that people value most what they pay for. The first year brought in £200. That was for their board and education. Last year, 1898, £3000 was got in this way. This includes the Boys', however, as well as Girls' Institution. We have about 800 under training. Of that number about 250 only are girls and young women.

Of such Girls' Training Institutions, I would like to mention, along with Lovedale, Blythswood in the Transkei, 150 miles distant, and belonging also to the Free Church of Scotland. Engwali, belonging to the United Presbyterian, 70 miles from Lovedale; St Matthews English Church Mission, 30 miles. There are also Healdtown, Clarkbury and Butterworth. These last three belong to the Wesleyan Mission.

There are a few other smaller schools of this class, and then we come to the kraal or hamlet schools in connection with every mission throughout the country. Those schools are nearly all conducted by men and women who have been trained at the institutions I have mentioned. I am sorry I cannot give you the correct number of those schools, but there cannot be less than 400 in the Cape Colony and native territories lying between the Cape Colony and Natal.

We have just opened a hospital at Lovedale, where we hope in time to train girls as nurses, another most useful branch of necessary work, seeing that the natives know nothing about nursing or the care of the sick.

Many different aspects of work among those African women might be mentioned had time permitted. One urgent matter, however, that has been on my mind for years, is that of dealing with native women-servants. It may surprise this Congress to hear that, with very few exceptions, the native women-servants, in the towns at least, do not sleep in the houses of their mistresses. They go to what are called native locations, and return in the morning. The majority of these are young women, and they are left nearly entirely without guidance or control during that interval. It does not need any statement surely to show that this cannot but have a most injurious effect on their moral welfare and character. This unwholesome custom has arisen from two causes:—First, the absence of proper accommodation in many colonial houses in the shape of a servant's bedroom or bedrooms; and, second, the desire for freedom for a portion of the day, or at least the night, by these native young women themselves. I think I am correct in saying that much mischief almost inevitably follows from this custom, by which young men and young women, set free from the labours of the day, thus meet constantly together without the control of their parents or their employers. What is wanted is a thorough change in the domestic arrangements of the employers of native women-servants, by providing additional accommodation, and refusing to engage servants who will not sleep in the households where they work. That which would secure such a change would be real personal interest on the part of all mistresses in the moral welfare of their native servants.

In the colony of Natal for a long time there were no native women-servants. All household work was done—even to that of nursing the children and taking them out—by men. This was due to the refusal of the Natal natives to allow their women to come into towns for service. I do not know whether of late years there may not have been some change; but what I have mentioned was the rule some short time ago.

Another drawback is the fact that women-servants are engaged without any reference to character or recommendation from previous employers. This, again, is due to the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of servants. Ladies are glad to take any help they can get.

In conclusion, I hope that the action of the different agencies aiming at the improvement in the condition of women, both black and white, in South Africa, will be greatly strengthened



MILLE. MARIE POPELIN, LL.D.

*Hon. Vice-President for Belgium.*



FRÖKEN GINA KROG.

*Hon. Vice-President for Norway.*

[To face p. 136.]



by connection or affiliation with this great Congress, representing a general movement towards that object through a large portion of the work.

I would ask the favour of a communication to be sent to some of these associations in Cape Town. It would encourage them and help to give more precision to their aims, perhaps suggest new methods of work, and extend the already wide influence of this Congress.

## Women's Activities in Cape Town.

**Mrs Nixon** (Hon. Representative) said :—I have the honour to read a brief report of the activities undertaken by women in Cape Town, South Africa, and I should like to point out, by way of preface, how extremely difficult it is, owing to the great scarcity of efficient domestic servants, to carry on pursuits or labours outside the boundary of the homestead.

Every woman nearly in South Africa with a home to look after, whatever may be her means, her rank or her position, has to superintend very largely in her kitchen, be her own head-nurse and head housemaid, dressmaker and milliner. These duties often leave but a small margin of strength or time.

However, I have a list from Cape Town giving 22 district activities, all of them conducted in, or close round, the city, and this list includes no scholastic work.

I will briefly speak of those of which I have reports or personal knowledge.

In a house built by Judge Oliphant (and called, from its fabric, "Granite House") are sheltered 40 orphan girls. St George's Home, as it is called, was started by an English lady, in the time of Bishop Gray, for the orphans of those parents who could show marriage certificates and produce baptismal registries.

Miss Arthur (a gifted and highly-cultivated woman) contributed in great measure herself to the funds of the home in its early days by giving music lessons; but for many years before her long illness and lamented death it had earned the most cordial interest and support of all in the peninsula, and continues to be one of the favourite institutions of Cape Town. The ages of the children vary from 8 to 18, and they are trained as domestic servants and school teachers. There is a mission school

attached for 200 children of every shade of colour, and in that portion of the work specially labours an ebony-coloured, good, capable woman, Anne Daoma, who was found by Bishop MacKenzie, a forsaken child of 4 years old, on the banks of the Zambezi. Anne Daoma has earned a noble place in the ranks of women workers, and owes it, under Providence, to the training of Miss Arthur and her most worthy successor, Miss Battyo.

St Michael's Home is also an orphanage, but on rather different lines. Here a small band of devoted women belonging to the All Saints Sisterhood take any orphan boy or girl brought to them, or left at their door—by no means an unusual occurrence. The ages are from a year old to such time as the girls are fit for service and the boys to enter the different trades for which they are carefully prepared. From a very small beginning (in a house situated in the quaint, unsavoury, old Dutch "keerom streets," or, as we should call it, "blind alley") they established their ever-increasing family about five years ago in a large, airy building constructed for the purpose on the lower slopes of Table Mountain. There are carpenters' and bootmakers' shops for the boys, and the girls are taught cooking, housework and sewing, besides the usual school instruction.

Under the same roof and management is an excellent middle-class day-school for girls, where the Sisters have the aid of certificated teachers from England, while in the town, in a high and pleasant position, other Sisters of the community conduct a most efficient high-class boarding-school for 70 girls, with classes for day scholars. The girls are prepared for the annual Oxford and Cambridge examinations of both grades, and have all the recreations—tennis, dancing, etc.—that a girl's heart can desire.

Others will take up the scholastic enterprises of South Africa, so I will pass on to the Girls' Friendly Society. This has grave difficulties amongst such mixed colour and race as are found in Cape Town, but important work is being done by the little lodge in receiving commended girls as they land, and helping them to employment. There is the sleeping accommodation, which is gladly used, when available, by Girls' Friendly Society girls employed in the shops. During the winter there are monthly recreation evenings, when different ladies give their help by singing, playing games, etc.

The Young Women's Christian Association is also a most useful institution. It has a nice, roomy establishment, in a good, central position, where 218 young women of various classes have

found safe and pleasant lodging at different times during the last year, and does valuable work as a branch of the Travellers' Aid Society. Instruction classes are held here for cookery and dressmaking, and during the winter lectures are given on various subjects.

For reserve work there is, alas! but inadequate provision, and those who labour in it earnestly long for more help of every kind. The House of Mercy at Leliebloem, just outside the town, under Diocesan supervision and worked by the All Saints Sisters, was opened in 1886, and is at present the only establishment in the colony where poor, straying women are taken in and kept from 3 to 4 years, so as to give them a sufficiently long period to make a real break with the old habits of life. The inmates, generally about 30 in number, do laundry-work under the supervision of the matron and sisters, and in the evenings they have night-schools, recreation and choir practice. The funds at their disposal have not enabled the Committee, much to their regret, to add a building for maternity cases. Women and girls are sent to the House of Mercy from all parts of the colony, and when possible, parents pay a small charge for their maintenance.

The anxiety and strain of this form of work is beyond the conception of those who have no experience of the Mohammedan Malays, and of the small amount of moral sense in savage races, which influences both white and coloured womankind in South Africa. The Young Women's Christian Association has a small reserve home on different lines at Woodstock, where maternity cases are taken, and the Salvation Army has another, where the women are kept for 6 months.

The Benevolent Ladies' Society has been carried on with patience and success since 1822, having for its main objects the visiting and relieving of the aged sick and poor in the city. It is supported by voluntary subscribers, and has an average of 100 aged pensioners yearly.

Of the Indigent Ladies' Home in Hope Street, and the Dorcas Home in Bree Street, I regret that I have but scant information. The former gives a comfortable home of rest to 14 old ladies, and a rich legacy from the late J. C. Hofmeyre enables their committee to contemplate adding accommodation for as many more. In the Dorcas Home the inmates pay a small sum, and take in needlework when able to do so.

The Women's Diocesan Association was established in 1890, a year of depression and distress in the colony, for the purpose of

collecting, by small sums in the different town and country parishes, a fund to assist the small stipends of the clergy in poor country districts, and to give aid, when possible, to the aged and sick clergy, or their widows and orphans.

In the suburb of Woodstock a juvenile industrial society has quite recently been started to give instruction to poor children in the usual subjects, and especially in needlework.

Our Cape ladies have not forgotten the suffering dumb creation, and their committee of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has enrolled 106 schools, with some 5000 members, in the Band of Mercy Association.

I come now to the medical and nursing departments. The Ladies' Committee of the Cape Town Free Dispensary, with Dr Jane Waterstow as its ever helpful, skilful friend and doctor president, has conducted its excellent work during 11 years.

With a very small income, sometimes less than £200 a year, a very efficient nurse is maintained for attending the poorer women in their confinements, a small fee being paid by them. Food and other help is given when necessary and possible, and for a long period this little Society struggled almost single-handed in the cause of the women of the lower classes in their "sorrowful hour."

There is now another lady doctor working amongst them in St Philip's Mission in Cape Town.

On the occasion of our gracious Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, a great effort was made by the ladies of the Cape Peninsula to raise funds to establish a comfortable house and convenient centre for the many certificated nurses in the city. It was the wish of these ladies, encouraged by the medical profession, that this house should be under the superintendence of a lady matron, herself a trained and certificated nurse, who should watch over the comforts and well-being of the nurses in residence, and be on the spot to receive all applications for the services of such made by the doctors or by private individuals. The need for such an institution was most pressing, and their efforts met with such success that the Committee of Ladies, with their enthusiastic president and secretary, having begun their labours in the early months of 1897, bought, equipped and opened the house in October of the same year. The Colonial Government generously met private efforts by a donation on the £ for £ principle, and thus enabled the Committee to purchase a suitable and pleasant house and garden in the higher parts of the town, where 22



MRS. WITTENOOM.\*

*Hon. Representative for West Australia.*

(Photo by Russell & Sons.)

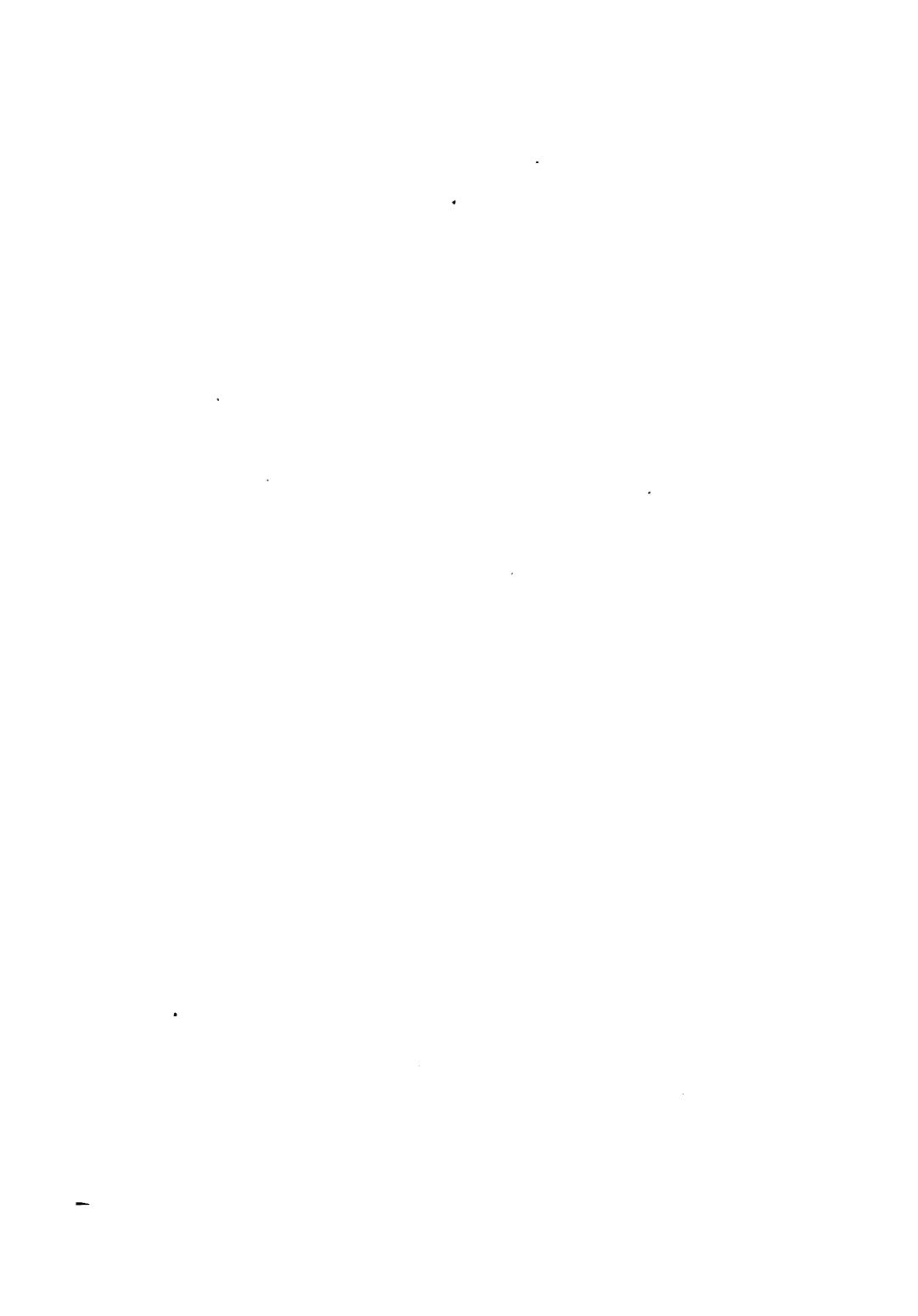


MRS. GAWLER.

*Hon. Representative for South Australia.*

(Photo by G. R. Noel.)

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nurses can be accommodated, including a district nurse, and one whose field of action is among the wives and children of the soldiers of the garrison, whose expenses and salary are paid by the War Office.

The youngest philanthropic venture is the founding of a crèche in the city. This is still in process of formation, but will doubtless soon be in working order.

There are other benevolent associations on my list, but as I have no reports of their work I am unable to specify them.

## Argentine Republic.

Doctor Cecilia Grierson, M.D.M.S. (Hon. Vice-President), said :—Kindly invited by the Countess of Aberdeen to speak at this International Council of Women, I have, as fraternal delegate from the Argentine Republic, or Argentina, as we call our country, the greatest pleasure in meeting the representative women of all the world who come together here with the object of contributing to the welfare of humanity.

Excuse me for not expressing myself correctly, as I have not the habit of speaking in public, and my native tongue is Spanish. Still, I conceive the greatest admiration for my British ancestors' energetic language, and its countries' liberal institutions, that allow women ample scope for their activity.

I come from a country that, though sometimes geographically unknown, is a country of liberty, blessed by Nature, having all that is lovely of every climate, and adaptable to all people.

Argentina is a new cosmopolitan country, where no prejudices exist ; our land, our riches, our institutions are open to the whole world, who can profit them by work and perseverance. Everyone can follow their customs, their religion, their ideas, with complete independence. On account of this mutual intercourse with people from all parts of the world, everyone speaks two or three languages ; people are broad-minded in their views and warm-hearted in their sentiments. We assimilate all that is useful, good and beautiful without analysing from what corner of the world it comes from.

Argentina, in its 90 years of independence, has made fine cities, splendid buildings, especially for its work of science and philanthropy.

Our capital, Buenos Ayres, has outgrown all calculations in the last few years, its actual population being 800,000 inhabitants; we have commerce with most European countries, and English and North-American capital is invested in large sums, and it has been the first country that has carried out to the greatest extent practical international arbitration.

In Argentina women have an active part in all the works they desire to take part in. According to their social position, they do different classes of work. In the country or camp, our native type, or half-Indian women, have, as the men, few wants on account of the beautiful climate, and do not work except to satisfy their material wants. They live in huts, prepare their food, take care of their children, which they keep, the same as themselves, very clean in their person and clothes, which, though scanty, is adorned with the most elaborate hand-work and native lace, which require time and patience, besides the work of hand-weaving, which is done of goat hair, llama and sheep wool, and dyed with colours taken from plants in our different provinces. Our native women very seldom do hard work, but have been seen to replace their brothers, husbands and sons in case of need. Only foreign women are seen doing hard work in the fields or otherwise, each country bringing and conserving its native customs and way of treating women.

In Argentina women's work is principally their household duties, and helping their families by washing, serving, or the products of their primitive dairy, bakery, confectionery, weaving or embroidery, which is used at home or sold privately to neighbours, or at stations, stores, or small towns, and after passing through several hands, arrive at Buenos Ayres, and there sold at high prices. Each province having its own peculiar and different kind of work, according to its climate, customs, situation and commerce.

Argentina women, especially descendants from Spaniards, prefer any work they can do hidden at home, on account of there still existing in all classes that false pride in which they consider work as a degradation, and many prefer to suffer poverty at home, or receive charity, than to show they require to earn a livelihood or be allowed to help the men of their families in outdoor work. So they prefer toilsome work, such as common sewing, embroidery, and even washing and ironing, which is done to high perfection and patronised by all classes of people, but with little profit for the workers on account of the competition. These

same women could gain an easy livelihood by artistic dressmaking, corset and glove-making, bonnet-making, for which there is great demand and very good pay for all work that is stylish and fashionable, were it not that it obliges them to be in the hands of intelligent foreigners, especially French milliners, hair-dressers, etc. This same prejudice makes even foreigners prefer our new factory work, which gives women more independence and liberty than domestic service, and it is very difficult to find women, not to say with technical preparation in their work, as cooks, chambermaids, waitresses, etc., but even women with medium qualifications for these posts, which are well paid, though I must confess not always well treated by their employers. These same considerations make ladies prefer teaching in schools or privately to be governesses or trained nurses. Foreign women are in many commercial works and have posts of great responsibility in commercial houses; they also do work as typewriters, copyists, carvers, etc.; are in telegraphic and nearly all telephonic offices, etc., and do all imaginable light work, occupying posts according to their abilities.

Woman's work in Argentina to remedy misery and suffering is great and good; philanthropy and charity is completely in her hands; our most illustrious, beautiful and wealthy women generously administrate for our Goverment one of the largest branches of hospital work and other charities, besides contriving to find means of getting voluntary contributions or arranging charitable *fêtes* with the same object. The "Sociedad de Beneficencia de la Capital" is the oldest society formed by ladies in our country, shortly after the declaration of our independence on the 9th of July 1816. This society was founded by one of our most progressive ministers—Rivadavia—in the year 1823, giving this ladies' society full charge of the hospitals for women and children, orphanages, schools, and every public establishment in Buenos Ayres, to further women's progress. Since then this society has been administered by the most select women of our city, who have courageously supported their institutions during tyranny and scarcity. In 1875 they had to give up to the Board of Education, recently formed, the management of the public schools, but have continued to enlarge their sphere of action in the promotion of charitable institutions, such as hospitals, orphanages, etc., and in which it is only required to have the nurses and other employees, technically trained to be up to the advancements of our century.

Every one of our 14 provinces and territories, especially in their capitals and even in small towns, have innumerable charitable and religious societies, formed by ladies, principally with the object of founding and supporting hospitals and charities of all kinds. Some are sufficiently advanced to protect the intellectual workers, helping in the provinces the girl students who follow studies in the teachers' schools, which the national government supports, and constitutes the life and activity of the far-away provinces by the subvention that is passed to the most advanced pupils, who, once received as teachers, are employed in the schools, and by this means can support their families, who are very united in our country.

Though our country is principally of a Roman Catholic creed, supported by the State, and the native societies are under its basis, still there are innumerable societies of all nationalities and creeds, some for the benefit of persons of their own colony or religion, and others having a wider scope, founded on a more liberal principle. When a National Council of Women is formed in our country, women's work will come forward and will be strengthened by the energies of the workers of this International Congress, and it will be known that in Argentina woman is the mainstay of our national religion, the vanguard of social purity, refined customs, elegance, style, and home happiness, besides her active part in beneficence.

In Argentina every woman of medium position and talents is a teacher, whether she uses it as a profession or solely to prepare herself for home duties. The primary and elementary schools are mostly in the hands of women, who are prepared and gain equal wages with men. Also in the normal or teachers' schools there are as many women as men professors, and in a great many of these schools co-education exists, the same as in all the university schools in which women wish to take part.

Special schools for drawing, painting and music exist in abundance, and in Buenos Ayres there is a flourishing academy of fine arts, in which one-third of the students are girls, who follow a course of 3 or 4 years in drawing, painting or sculpture, to perfect themselves or use their knowledge as a profession in private teaching, in schools or small academies.

Music is cultivated to a high degree, and no one ever plays or sings in public except they possess a high perfection. In Buenos Ayres there are several music conservatories, where not only the best teachers are found, but they have produced several

notable songstresses and women devoted to drama and other theatrical pursuits. Taste for music is so greatly developed, that the most famed artistes of the world have been attracted to our theatres by large remunerations and applause, and, as one has said, they receive diamonds along with the flowers at their ovation.

Literature and declamation is generally the result of natural talent, and now and then there has been a medium novelist or educational writer, and any woman who has inclination and facility for writing, finds always, perhaps too easily, papers or reviews who will publish them with pleasure. A great many reviews, not only in Buenos Ayres, but in the provinces, that treat about fashionable, religious, literary and educational subjects, are edited and directed by women, who seem to succeed in publishing them, though the love of reading is not much developed amongst us.

Scientific studies have only been taken up by women these last 15 years, since the commencement of co-education on equal terms with the men in their studies, examinations and working out of the profession. The only obstacle up to the present for women has been in getting professorships in the Faculties, in the direction or management of hospitals, high posts on the Board of Education, etc., where men are generally named by political influence and through Government. But only a break in these antiquated routines is required, and already a technical lady inspector in education has been named and works with great applause of the Board.

In Argentina I have the satisfaction of being the first lady who passed the examination in the Faculty and practised medicine in Buenos Ayres, being followed by two others, who were also normal professors and had the preparatory studies required. Then came a lapse of 10 years, and there are ten ladies who have passed their secondary studies and are following now the classes of medicine. Also a few have studied pharmacy and dentistry in the Medical Faculty.

I founded the first school for trained nurses, who work in private families with great profit to themselves and approbation of their employers, though I would require to have the direction of an hospital to give them a model training and show how they should be treated in these establishments. Also this school has a superior class for nurses, who study for masseuse and are employed successfully by the Central Register of Nurses, whose

bureau and fund I founded with the school. A great many women work as midwives, studying at the Medical Faculty and passing an examination after 3 years' study, and then work under the supervision of the Hygienic Department; but many of these women have not a good moral character, and for this reason they are not so well thought of in society as the nurses who have to give proofs of their conduct while they study.

Several normal teachers who on account of their preparatory studies were in condition to enter the university went into the Faculty of Arts and Science, and many obtain every year the highest classification in their examination. Only one has entered the Faculty of Law, but her premature death ended her career.

Several women who are not attracted by the frivolities of fashion and society, and prefer a quiet life, have with sufficient preparation dedicated themselves to scientific pursuits or study of literature and fine arts. I know some ladies who are good writers, painters, geologists, botanists, etc., though their names and talents are only recognised by a small circle of their friends.

In Argentina women have complete facilities to dedicate themselves to any pursuit they are inclined to. From this land of liberty and generosity I bring across the ocean a congratulatory salute to the Congress from all our working women, and especially to those members already well-known to us since the first International Congress in Chicago by their works, their words, and even by their photographs, which make them quite familiar to us, and with whom we have already sympathised.

## Palestine.

**Mrs Mountford** (Hon. Vice-President) had no further report to give.

## China.

**Madame Shen** said through her interpreter that she did not wish to add anything to what she had said the previous day.

## Persia.

In the absence of Mrs Neilson Hamilton (Hon. Vice-President), Mrs Sewall (Persia) mentioned that in Persia much could be done by the aid of Mrs Neilson Hamilton, the Hon. Vice-President, to spread a knowledge of the existence of the International Congress in that country, and some of the largest and most widely circulated newspapers had published the Constitution, the Standing Rules, parts of Lady Aberdeen's address, and parts of addresses of our International Officers, through Mrs Hamilton's agency.

## Report of Committee on Nominations.

**Miss Anthony** said the Committee of Nominations for International Officers had a sitting the previous afternoon, when 7 of the 10 members were present, and again that morning they held a meeting at which all were present, and the Secretary would give the report. The business of the committee, the delegates would remember, was simply to inspect the reports from the different National Councils as to their nominations for the chief officers, which nominations could only be received until February 15th. They had endeavoured to keep themselves strictly to that line.

The Recording Secretary read the report as follows:—

**MME. PRESIDENT**,—The Committee on Nominations have examined the various nominations sent in, and desire to make the following recommendations:—For President—Mrs May Wright Sewall; Vice-President—The Countess of Aberdeen.

They make no recommendations for Corresponding Secretary or Treasurer. As the lady nominated for Recording Secretary was not a member of any National Council, the Nomination Committee referred the nomination for that office to the Executive.

By permission of the other members of the said committee the delegates of the Canadian and Swedish Councils added a statement as to why it seemed advisable to recommend that the present officers be re-elected in the present formative state of the Council.

The President said they could adopt the report, though they did not formally adopt its nominations. The names would be placed on the ballot papers, which would be supplied under the Standing Orders to the members of the Council on Thursday, July 4th.

**Mrs Gaffney** moved the reconsideration of the date of election on the ground that when it was arrived at several members were absent with leave on committee business.

The President said she was afraid the vote could not be rescinded. Besides, it would have no result, as they were faced by the impossibility of having the ballot papers ready.

**Mrs Gaffney** said reconsideration would not commit the Council to any cause. It would only bring the matter before the Council so that all might have a voice.

Lady Aberdeen said a motion or amendment might be withdrawn with the unanimous consent of all. She thought, perhaps, they might apply the rule to this case. The consent must be given unanimously. She asked whether the Council would agree to the introduction of Mrs Gaffney's amendment. (Several members, "No.")

The Rev. Anna Shaw pointed out that if the election was taken on Tuesday, and the result not declared till Wednesday, there would be no election at all in the case of ties. If the result were declared at once there might be another election in such a case.

**Miss Anthony** called attention to the fact that there was no nomination for Recording Secretary.

The President said the Executive might fill up the vacancy immediately after the Council.

**Mrs Sewall** said it seemed a great misfortune that a candidate for that post could not be nominated while the representatives of National Councils were all present, rather than leave it to the Executive Committee to act as if one had been elected, and had died or resigned in the interval of the quinquennial.

**Mrs Creighton** said she could not see how any officer could be nominated at present under the rules.

**Mrs Sewall** said the vacancy occurred from the simple cause of one nominee sent by the Executive to the International, and endorsed by at least three of the National Councils, was now found impossible, and it was considered that her name should not appear in the ballot paper. She did not think a strict interpretation of the Constitution applied here would place it in the

hands of the Executive. It seemed much better to follow a course which would secure the largest representation of all the Councils present.

The President said she thought it clear that the point put by Mrs Creighton was a right one. They would go against the Constitution if they nominated an officer at that stage. They might as well call the Executive together and make fresh nominations.

Mrs Sewall thought that course would be the best one.

Miss Anthony said it would cause great confusion if the Council adjourned without a Secretary, and if the Executive did not at once make a nomination she did not see how they were going to get a Recording Secretary at all. If they had not Constitution enough to elect a Recording Secretary in the Council, she did not think they would have enough to make one after it closed.

The President said the Executive had been summoned to meet immediately after the Council.

Miss Anthony asked if it was not possible to summon one before the close of the Council.

The President.—Yes, but it is doubtful whether we can make nominations.

Miss Anthony.—Well, the laws of the Medes and Persians are awkward.

Mrs Creighton said she did not know why it had been assumed that the persons nominated were ineligible. There was no qualification for International Officers mentioned in the Constitution.

The Recording Secretary said they were given to understand that those who were not members of National Councils were ineligible as International Officers.

The President.—We have no such rule.

Mrs Gaffney asked what sort of a body it would become if they were to take persons from outside and make them International Officers.

Mrs Creighton said she would move that the names be restored and voted upon.

The President.—The whole must go back, because the same applies to other officers.

Mrs Gaffney protested in the name of the Council of America against such a course. She thought it would be fatal to elect outsiders when they had so many National Councils to select from.

**Miss Anthony** said if they were going back on those nominations she would have to say that the English Council had presented no written report of nominations, and they had simply the paper of recommendations which was sent to the Secretary for the purpose of finding out whether people would accept nomination or not. Then they had a verbal report that some would accept and some would not, and it seemed to her they would get into immense complication if they attempted to go back on the report already made by the committee. Sweden had no official report of nominations. Canada had an extract from a letter with regard to what she did. Germany and the United States were the only two Councils which had made official reports on the nominations. There were ten nations affiliated with the Council, and if in those nationalities they had not a woman who could be Recording Secretary, they had better throw up the whole business. She wished to amend the motion by saying that no woman should be eligible to an office in the International Council unless she belonged to a National Council affiliated with the International.

**Mrs Gaffney** seconded.

**Mrs Creighton** asked if it was possible in that way to make an amendment to the Constitution.

The President ruled the amendment out of order, remarking that she herself had been elected when she was not a member of any National Council.

At this point it was agreed to adjourn, and to continue the business in the afternoon.





MRS. MONTEFIORE.

*Affointed by Madame Maria Martin, Recording Secretary, to represent her on the Sub-Committee of Arrangements for the Congress.*



LADY ROBERTS-AUSTEN.

*Convener of the Hospitality Sectional Committee.*

*[To face p. 151.]*

## MEETING OF COUNCIL.

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COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL,  
*THURSDAY, JUNE 29, AFTERNOON.*

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THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN in the Chair.

THE Council Meeting was resumed at 2.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Westminster Town Hall—The Countess of Aberdeen presiding.

Discussion on the Report of the Nominations Committee was resumed.

**Mrs Creighton** said she would move, by agreement with the American delegates :—

“That the Report of the Nomination Committee be referred back to that Committee, and that their attention be called to the fact that hitherto it has not been the custom of the Council to choose their officers only from National Councils, and that therefore they are free to accept names of persons outside National Councils. At the same time the Council strongly recommend that in the future, after this Quinquennial Meeting of the Council, no persons be nominated for office who are not members of National Councils.”

**The Rev. Anna Shaw** seconded, and **Miss Anthony** said she would accept the motion.

**Mrs Gaffney** said the motion left it open to the Council to have officers during the next five years who did not belong to National Councils, and she could not accept it.

**Mrs Sewall** said she thought that the motion should be passed in such a way that if any officer should die or resign in

the next five years the vacancy could only be filled up by a woman belonging to the Council.

**Mrs Creighton** said she thought this would be made clear by the terms of the resolution.

The President said it would relieve Baroness Gripenberg and herself to feel that they had not been filling their positions illegally for these years.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Rev. Anna Shaw gave notice "That she, or someone else in her place, would move at the proper time that contributions be so amended that no person shall be eligible to hold office in the International Council who is not a member of a National Council." She wanted not only a recommendation made, but the Constitution so altered as to make such a choice impossible.

**Miss Anthony** called a meeting of her Nominating Committee, and in the meanwhile the business of the Council being proceeded with, the Rev. Anna Shaw and Mlle. Vidart were appointed tellers in case of divisions on the motion of **Mrs Creighton**, seconded by **Lady Battersea**.

**Miss Anthony** then presented the report of her committee. In accordance with the vote of the Council, she said they had replaced the name of Mlle. Sarah Monod as nominee for the Vice-Presidency and the name of Mlle. Vidart for the office of Recording Secretary. The rest of the report remained as before.

The report was accepted on the motion of **Mrs Creighton**, seconded by **Lady Battersea**.

The question having been raised as to whether the Returning Officers should be appointed from among the voting members of the Council, it was moved by **Lady Laura Ridding**, seconded by **Fru Retzius**,

"That the Returning Officers be not voting members of the Council."

Carried.

Moved by **Mrs Creighton**, seconded by **Mrs Willoughby Cummings**. Resolved :

"That Mrs Purdy Peck and Mrs Sanford be appointed Returning Officers."

Carried.

It was agreed to defer the appointment of Auditors until after the Treasurer was appointed.

**The Rev. Anna Shaw** said she thought the Auditor should be an elected officer equal to the said officers. She agreed, however, that the Auditor should be a woman from the same country as the Treasurer.

**Miss Anthony** mentioned again the difficulty in connection with the declaration of the voting on Wednesday, and the President said the only thing would be to ask the members of the Council to vote as they came into the hall, instead of as they came out. That could be arranged if agreeable to the Council. As members came in then they would find the polling booth ready, and the Returning Officers there with the ballot papers. That should be the first business of the meeting, and the Returning Officers should report the result at the end of the meeting.

#### AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

The President moved the following amendment to the preamble of Constitution which stood in her name :—

“That the words ‘committed to the overthrow of all forms of ignorance and injustice, and to’ be omitted, and that the words ‘to further’ be inserted, so that that part of the Preamble do read, ‘do band themselves together in a confederation of workers to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom and law,’ and that the Golden Rule be printed in full as a parenthesis after the Preamble.”

The motion was seconded by **Mrs Sewall**, and carried without discussion.

**Mrs Creighton**, on behalf of the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland, moved the following as an amended constitution :—

“That after ‘name’ shall be added, ‘Objects of the International Council of Women,’

“(a) To provide a means of communication between women’s organisations in all countries.

“(b) To provide opportunities for women to meet together from all parts of the world to confer upon questions relating to the welfare of the commonwealth and the family.”

**Fru Retzius** seconded.

**Mrs Willoughby Cummings** asked whether the change would affect the question whether they were to have Conferences in

connection with the Quinquennial Council or not. She thought it implied that there *must* be Conferences.

The President said that the amendment did not lay down when and where Conferences were to be held.

**Mrs Creighton.**—Nor how authorised.

**Miss Anthony** said she thought it rather vague to talk of the family and the commonwealth, because half of the commonwealth were not included in many of the Governments. They might as well beat the air as go on talking about the commonwealth when they had no voice in it.

**Mrs Sewall** said she disagreed entirely with this. Although a disfranchised citizen, she was surely a citizen of the country in which she was born, and was part of the commonwealth. While she herself did not undervalue the vote, she would be reluctant to join any organisation which should put it on record that the vote was the only instrument by which they allied themselves to the commonwealth. Women were surely as much half of the commonwealth as they were of the family. They should be as free to discuss all questions relating to the commonwealth as well as in their households.

The Rev. **Anna Shaw** said, as a spinster, she would like to add the words, "and the individual." There were many questions which had to do with the individual but not with the family.

**Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg** questioned whether the amendment was necessary.

**Mrs Sewall** said all individuals were members of the nation and of the commonwealth, and being a spinster did not make one less a member of a family.

**Lady Laura Ridding** said it would be a little egotistical to call women from all parts of the world to discuss the one individual.

The Rev. **Anna Shaw** said she thought the addition would be a good thing, but she would withdraw it.

**Mrs Sewall.**—When it is necessary to call a Conference to discuss Miss Shaw, we shall not be hindered by our Constitution.

The motion was then put and carried.

**Mrs Creighton** moved the following amendments to the constitution on behalf of the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland :—

"That Article III. shall consist of the following paragraphs :—  
" 'The officers shall be a President and an Honorary Secretary.

Each President of a National Council shall be *ex officio* Vice-President of the International Council.

"The officers, with the Vice-Presidents, that is, Presidents of Federated National Councils, shall constitute an Executive Committee, of which 7 members shall make a quorum, to control and provide for the general interests of the International Council."

"That the following paragraphs be substituted for the present Article IV. :—

"Any National Council formed of Local Councils or Unions, or of representative societies or institutions, may become a member *pro tem.* of the International Council, with the approval of the President and Secretary.

"All National Councils shall, on application for federation, send a copy of their Constitution and rules, and a copy of the resolution by which the application for federation was passed by the Council. And if at any time the said constitution and rules are altered, a copy of the alteration shall be sent to the Secretary."

"That the following paragraphs take the place of paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 in Article V. :—

"1. The International Council shall hold Quinquennial Meetings.

"2. These meetings shall be arranged by the National Councils or Unions in rotation. The Secretary of the Council whose turn it is to hold the International Conference shall issue invitations to the other Councils to send representatives, with all particulars as to the time of the meetings, subjects to be discussed, etc., at least six months before the date of the meeting.

"3. At the time of the meeting of the International Conference one or more meetings relating to the affairs of the International Council shall be held. At this meeting the officers for the ensuing five years shall be elected, the place for the next International Conference shall be settled, and any changes desired in the Constitution of the International Council shall be made. The officers, with the President of, and the two delegates from, every Federated National Council shall alone have the power to vote at these meetings.

"4. No change can be made in the Constitution of the International Council except by a majority of two-thirds of those present.

"5. It shall be the business of the Honorary Secretary to keep a list of all National Councils or Unions in federation with the International Council.

"6. The President and Honorary Secretary shall have power to admit *pro tem.* any newly-organised National Council or Union to federation with the International, subject to the approval of the Executive of the International at its Quinquennial Meeting. If the President and Secretary refuse the application of any National Council, such Council shall have the right of appeal to the Executive of the International at the next Quinquennial Meeting.

"7. Each federated Council shall pay the Secretary a subscription of £1 annually for her postage and stationery expenses."

She said she thought she had, perhaps, undertaken an ungrateful, if not an impossible, task in endeavouring to convince

the Council of the advantages of the amended Constitution the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland had the honour to lay before them. That Council, she might remind them, had been organised for some years, and it came before the International Council with the advantage of experience. That practical experience had led them to foresee many of the difficulties in the great International movement, and she doubted whether even the most hopeful and enthusiastic of those present would dare to say that the difficulties were not very many. Their sessions in that room had proved it only too sadly ; and she did not feel any the less in love with their amended Constitution because she had had the privilege of sitting under the existing Constitution during two mornings. They valued very much the part of the international management which ought to bring women of all countries into closer relationship to one another, and which tended to enable workers in one country to profit by the experience of workers in another country. However, they felt that, under the present rules, until they were provided with means of communication which would enable a committee meeting in Australia on a given morning to be attended by ladies from all parts of the globe, International committees became an impossibility. She did not think the system of proxies entirely satisfactory. She knew the Vice-President was a strong believer in proxies. She told her last year she hoped, by a great deal of correspondence with her proxy in England, to feel that she was really possessed of a voice on the committee. She did not know whether it was necessary to disclose the secrets of the prison house, but the fact was there came a crisis, there was a difference, and Mrs Sewall's proxy did not express Mrs Sewall's opinion, and she vanished, so that for some meetings they were deprived of Mrs Sewall's presence among them, even by proxy. Another disadvantage of the proxy system was that ladies in other countries did not know how any lady appointed as proxy would work with those who were doing the work in the country from which she was absent. But she did not want to take up the time of the Council with criticisms of the way in which the proxy arrangement worked. She thought they had all had experience of its difficulties and, at the same time, they had had experience of the great pleasure and profit of meeting together and knowing something of one another, and they did not wish to make it impossible in the future. The suggestion was that they should still have an International President —a woman chosen by all representatives of different opinions,

and one who would feel it her business to be in touch with all—but they only wanted honorary officers, and they did not wish for an elaborate organisation which would need money. The Executive Meeting would practically cease to exist, and the President and Secretary would become the Executive during the quinquennial period, and be able to admit any National Council *pro tem*. The Quinquennial Meetings would be as at present, except that the meetings would be arranged by the National Councils in rotation. They contemplated no expenses except postage and stationery. They were told that these proposals contradicted the International idea, but if so, she would like to be told in what way. It gave opportunities of knowing what is going on in other countries; and there would be opportunities of meeting in the way happily entertained by the other National Councils, and getting valuable knowledge of the conditions in other countries.

Lady Battersea seconded.

Mrs Sewall, in the name of the Executive, called attention to their statement on the Agenda paper.

The Executive agreed to place this amended Constitution on the Agenda, followed by a resolution in their own name to the effect—

“That this Executive does not recommend the adoption of the amended Constitution proposed by the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland, as they consider that it is contrary to the ideals, and that it abrogates the functions of the International Council as expressed in its present Constitution. They accept only those clauses stating the objects of the International Council.”

She said it was her view that the chief officers of the International Council should, during the 5 years of their service, be international in spirit and in service. She thought they should have no sense whatever of being related any more to one National Council than they were to the other National Councils. Indeed, it would be proposed by herself, if by no one else, that it should be impossible for the President of any National Council to be regarded as a candidate for the International Council unless she resigned the Presidency of her National Council. She thought the proposal that the officers should consist of a President and an honorary Secretary only would absolutely cripple the Executive. They needed not only a President who should be international in spirit and purpose, but also a staff of four officers belonging to different countries, upon whom she might rely to hold the inter-

national aspect of the movement constantly before the countries in which they live and whatever portion of the world they might come in contact with. Now, with regard to the proxies, she was glad that everyone thought that she had nominated a good woman as her proxy. She still thought so, and none the less because there came a point where her proxy could not represent her. She had no regret in connection with her having named Mrs Cobden Unwin as her proxy. She was grateful for the service Mrs Cobden Unwin rendered while representing her; but she had learnt a lesson which would pave the way to another amendment for the next quinquennial, which would be that no proxy should be permitted to serve anyone on the Executive of the International Council, except she were a member of a National Council of the same country as the person whom she serves. She thought it would be a vast misfortune to call upon the International Council to attempt to carry on the International movement without both a treasurer and a treasury. She did not think that the treasury of the International Council should be drawn upon unnecessarily for congresses which were convened without its sanction, but for its own work there must be a well-supported treasury to make it possible for an international movement to be carried forward. Then it would be observed that a quorum of 7 members was fixed, and she wished to ask if any of the women who sat as representatives of their respective National Councils, or any woman who had been called, or might be called, to the post of chief officer felt that a quorum of 7 was sufficient to carry forward a work of an International Council in which 10 National Councils already sat?

**Mrs Creighton.**—I am willing to make it two-thirds.

**Mrs Sewall**, continuing, said there were some very strong objections against admitting National Councils to a *pro tem.* relationship to the International. No National Council's application for fellowship should be regarded, which did not come in good faith intending to join the International Council, not for the time being but to the end of time. Moreover, the proposal put into the hands of two women a responsibility which she, for one, would never be willing to take, and she thought that no woman with a sufficient sense of fairness to make it reasonable for her name to be considered as an International Officer would be willing to entertain the thought that she should decide what National Councils should come in *pro tem.* Only the present International Council had the right to consider

a question of such magnitude. It would be possible for two women, whose intentions she was not questioning, to be largely mistaken as to the character of the National Council in some distant country. They must at least have the opinion of the entire Executive to admit to membership in the International Council any National Council. Then did anyone present think it desirable that a National Council should arrange the quinquennial meetings of an International Council? The National Council might well arrange the Congress to be held at the same time, which was quite a different thing. They knew how the women of the Council of Great Britain and Ireland had helped in arranging for the International Congress under the auspices of the International Council, and they might, to her mind, make a law that if an International Congress was held at the end of each quinquennial period, it should be arranged for by the National Council in which the International Council should convene its Quinquennial. She thought that reasonable and wise, but she thought it neither reasonable nor wise, nor even possible, to commit to any National Council the province of arranging the meetings of the Quinquennial Council.

**Mrs Creighton** said the difficulty arose simply from a misunderstanding as to terms. The arrangements she meant were simply the outside mechanical part of organisation.

**Mrs Sewall** said there was much outside mechanical work to be done, but there was also much inside spiritual work to be done, in arranging the meeting of the International Council, and that must be left to the International Council. Again, the secretary was to keep a list of all National Councils or Unions in federation with the International Council; but if they were to have a secretary who would only do that, how would the International work be forwarded during that time? It must be the Corresponding Secretary's business to keep the chief officers in touch with the National Councils, wherever they existed, affiliated with the International, and with the initiative movements which were going forward in other countries where there were no National Councils. The proposals seemed also to imply that there should be only quinquennial meetings of the Executive. During the term now closing there had been numerous, one might almost say, Executive meetings, and it seemed to her there must be annual meetings of the Executive. As to the subscription of £1 annually to the secretary for her postage and stationery, **Mrs Creighton** would pardon her if she said she

found it impossible not to be amused by the suggestion. She had had experience of suggestions parallel to it. When the World's Congress Auxiliary of the Chicago Exposition placed in the hands of the chief officer of the National Council of Women of the United States the task of convening in Chicago, in 1893, an International Congress of Women, the first letter received from the President of the World's Congress Auxiliary assured her the Government would pay all expenses of correspondence, postage, telegrams, etc. When application was made at the office for the appropriation—she begged the pardon of the Council for an irrepressible smile—two dollars were placed in her hands. She did not know what money had been expended in saving the life and promoting the growth of the International Council, but for 18 months correspondence was going forward both from her own office and from the National Council, and for many and many a day the daily postage ranged from 10 dollars to 25 dollars, and on one day reached 150 dollars.

**Mrs Creighton** said she had made the fee a quarter of what was now received. She had taken the meetings as a quarter of those at present, and the expenditure might be expected to be a quarter.

**Mrs Sewall** said the proportion was magnanimity itself compared with the proportion from the World's Congress Auxiliary. It would, however, be impossible to carry on the work of the International Council with that provision.

**Mrs Creighton** said she thought it would be a great pity to take up the time of the meeting in discussing how small points might be amended, and she would not answer in detail to what **Mrs Sewall** had so ably urged. She would only like to know what the Recording Secretary had done until it came to the arrangement of the Quinquennial. They had had a Recording Secretary whose name had been visible on paper, but she had never seen her or been conscious of her work. She was going to propose that Lady Aberdeen should kindly put it to the vote of the meeting whether they would wish the amendment to be discussed or not. If they had made up their minds not in any shape or form to accept the amendment, they might vote it out and let the Council go on with its business. If there were those who yet thought it might be accepted as a basis of amendment they could further discuss it.

**Mrs Sewall** said, with regard to the Recording Secretary, it had been because the Recording Secretary had been only nominal

that they felt the need of an acting Recording Secretary, and the fact that they had found that one woman elected could not perform the duties of the office was no reason for abolishing the office. It was only a reason for getting the consent of the woman to be elected and holding her to her word.

**Mrs Sewall** moved that the amended Constitution as proposed by **Mrs Creighton** in the name of the Council of Great Britain and Ireland be no further considered.

**Mrs Gaffney** seconded.

On the motion being put division was claimed, and the motion was carried by 16 votes to 9.

**Frau Anna Simson** then moved the following amendment to the Constitution on behalf of the National Council of Germany :—

**Amendments to Article III.** proposed by the Council of Germany was moved by **Frau Simson**, seconded by **Mrs Sewall**.

"That between paragraph 1 and 2 a new paragraph be inserted to the effect that 'These officers shall be elected at the Quinquennial Meeting, and no Officer shall occupy the office of President for two consecutive terms.'"

**Frau Marie Stritt** seconded.

**Mrs Sewall** said she thought no President of the International Council should succeed herself, lest one line only should be taken out of the many which the Council should pursue. She thought the preservation of the International character of the Council was only to be secured by this resolution.

**Mrs Creighton** said **Mrs Sewall** seemed to contradict herself in urging that there should be a special International head, and then suggesting that the International idea would be affected if one woman held office for two quinquennial periods. She thought it too early to make such a change as was suggested.

**Mrs Sewall** said one woman should not be Internationalised for more than 5 years.

**Mrs Willoughby Cummings** said a person's experience counted for a great deal in efficiency. She herself fancied that, except for a person of very exceptional ability and attainments, it would take a considerable part of the 5 years to get to know the work thoroughly well, and be efficient in it. It seemed to her that if at the end of 5 years a President had proved herself efficient, it would be running a serious risk to deprive oneself of her services.

**Fran Bieber Boehm** said the German Council attached great importance to this proposition. She did not think it was possible to remain in the International if it was not carried.

**Mrs Sewall** said she had a resolution to introduce for future amendment of the Constitution 5 years hence. She wished to keep the experience of the Presidents upon the Executive, and would move a Resolution "that a President of the International Council having held the office for the full term should be made, upon retiring, Honorary President of the Council, with all power and privilege, including that of a vote upon the Executive Committee."

**Mrs Boomer** opposed the amendment to Article III., remarking that she thought it would be a wonder if a woman mastered all the work in 5 years. **Mrs Sewall** seemed to want something of the Liebig principle introduced, keeping all the concentrated essence of Presidents and not letting go of them.

**Miss Anthony** said it was not to be supposed that any woman totally ignorant of the Council and its work would be nominated and elected to take charge of the International Council.

On a division the motion was carried by 11 votes to 10.

The President said both **Mrs Sewall** and herself had made conditions about the terms on which they would accept the offices to which they were asked. She thought **Mrs Sewall** would like an opportunity of explaining the condition made last year at the Executive as recorded in the minutes, so that the members might know her position before they voted.

**Mrs Sewall** said her position was that if it was expected that the President of the International Council should pay all expenses of the International Council, she should not take office. She by no means said she did not expect, if she took the office, to render what service she could, whether financial or otherwise. She quoted from Lady Aberdeen's memorandum of the preceding year, in which the entire Executive present united, to express the opinion that it was most disastrous for an international body to expect an individual to carry it on financially. If any individual carried on an International Association financially it ceased to be International, because it put such an obligation upon all the members of the Executive belonging to it, and all the other chief officers, that it would be hardly possible for it to have liberty of action. For that reason Lady Aberdeen herself, in her memorandum of 1887, said that from 1898 to the end of her term she would cease to pay the expenses, in order to make it impossible to have it considered a precedent, and in order to relieve subsequent Presidents from the thought that by their election that burden was fastened upon them. When

her nomination came up she very frankly told the members that, not being a woman of fortune, she could not undertake to carry all the expenses of the Council. She might say that, from the time the International Council was organised up to the present, she had paid very large expenses in its work, but she joined entirely in the feeling of Lady Aberdeen that it was an undignified position for an International Council to be in that it should direct work which was to be done at the expense of the President. If called to the office she expected to give whatever she could, in means or influence or ability or devotion in any direction, to the service of the Council for the next 5 years. She wished to say that she had not discussed the matter of the election with anyone but with Lady Aberdeen, not even with the Council of the United States. They voted to endorse the nomination of the Executive in a way very gratifying to her, but she had not lifted her pen or spoken a word to influence any woman belonging to that body to vote for her. She did not expect the Council to vote her expensive journeys at their expense, but she did not expect them to say, "You must do this," and give her no appropriation for the work. She felt it absolutely necessary for the dignity of the Council, and just as necessary whether Lady Aberdeen was President or herself. In no other way could they be democratic in this world, and it was absolutely impossible to carry forward an international movement, except on the basis of the soundest democracy. There must be a feeling that in that work they met, not as dependants upon one special leader, with exhaustless power and purse. She thanked Lady Aberdeen for what she thought one of the most gracious of her many gracious acts—for making, in her memorandum of 1887, a definite utterance on that subject, and make it possible for her successor to be elected without special reference to her successor's wealth.

The President said that at the Executive in March 1899 she endeavoured to explain to the Executive that she wished to decline the nomination of the Vice-Presidency or any other office on the Council simply for private reasons. For some years she had had a great deal of public work to do, and now she felt it her duty to free herself from such work as far as possible for the next 2 or 3 years at anyrate. The Executive were good enough to press the nomination upon her, and she then explained that if the Council decided to accept her resolution about the headquarters and International Bureau, and if the

International Bureau were to be in London, she felt she might perhaps be of some service to the International Council without contracting ties she could not fulfil, and that therefore she would allow her name to go forward. But she felt it very likely that many of the members of the Council would like to elect one for the Vice-Presidency whom they could depend upon with certainty, and she wished to say explicitly that they could not depend upon her with such certainty as they might desire. Unless that resolution were passed, which would mean work she could do very easily, she felt she would not be of any use to the Council, as she could not undertake to travel to the meetings of the Executive in other countries, and this might reasonably be expected of the Vice-President, more especially with a President on the other side of the world.

The Rev. Anna Shaw.—You are not refusing nomination?

The President.—I want it to be clear that some other candidates for the Vice-Presidency would be able to do your work better than I could, because I cannot undertake to give much time to it.

The meeting then adjourned till Tuesday, July 4th.

## PRIVATE MEETING OF COUNCIL.

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COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.

TUESDAY, JULY 4, MORNING.

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THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN in the Chair.

The President called the meeting to order at 10.15, and explained to the Council that she had received a letter signed by the Presidents or acting Presidents of 6 National Councils requesting that the Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg might be allowed to withdraw her resignation for nomination, and that her name be placed on the ballot papers as a nominee for the office of President, as, in their opinion, it is advisable to have more than one name to be balloted for each office. It was only with great difficulty that they had obtained Baroness Gripenberg's assent to this request being made, as she was most reluctant to be a candidate. As this was a matter which affected the question of voting, the President felt that an expression of opinion from the Council should be invited before the election took place.

After some discussion, in which Mrs Creighton, Miss Anthony, Miss Shaw, Mrs Boomer, Fru Retzius and Lady Laura Riddings took part, it was decided that it was inadvisable at so late a stage to re-open the question,

Miss Anthony moved, seconded by Frau Marie Stritt:—

"Resolved that the last report of the Nomination Committee be sustained."

Carried.

Mrs Sewall then addressed the Council.

## THIRD BUSINESS SESSION OF THE QUINQUENNIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CON- GRESS OF WOMEN.

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COUNCIL CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL.  
*TUESDAY, JULY 4, MORNING.*

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THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN in the Chair.

THE first business of the morning was the election of the five international officers by ballot for the next quinquennial period.

**Miss Anthony** asked if one name could be put on the ballot paper for more than one office, as **Frau Simson** was nominated both as Corresponding Secretary and as Treasurer.

In answer to a question, **Frau Simson** said she was willing to allow her name to stand for both offices.

The votes of the officers and delegates were then recorded by ballot in the polling booth provided for the purpose, and handed to the returning officers, the President only declining the privilege of voting.

When this was completed, the minutes of the last meeting were read, and after two alterations were confirmed and signed.

The consideration of the amendments to the Constitution was proceeded with.

**Article III. (2) Proposed by the President:—**

“That in the second paragraph (paragraph 3 of the amended Constitution) after the word ‘Vice-Presidents,’ be added the words ‘that is, Presidents of Federated National Councils.’”



MLLE. CAMILLE VIDART.

*Hon. Vice-President for Switzerland. Elected Recording Secretary  
of International Council, July, 1899.*



Miss Shaw moved in amendment that the words "vice-presidents, that is" be struck out, so that the clause will read :—

"The five General Officers with the Presidents of Federated National Councils."

The President accepted the amendment, and Miss Shaw having seconded the motion, it was carried.

Miss Anthony gave notice of motion that at the next Quinquennial Meeting she will move an amendment to Clause 3, Article III., adding the words "between quinquennial meetings," thus limiting the power of the Executive to the interim between quinquennial meetings.

Moved by Frau Bieber Boehm, seconded by Miss Anthony :—

"Resolved that the words 'seven members' in paragraph 2 (paragraph 3 in amended Constitution) be replaced by 'two-thirds of the whole number.'"

Carried.

Moved by Frau Marie Stritt, seconded by Lady Laura Riddings :—

"That in paragraph 3 (paragraph 4 of amended Constitution) the word 'honorary' be prefixed to the term Vice-President."

Carried.

The President proposed, seconded by the Vice-President :—

"That the following sentence be added to the end of paragraph 3 (paragraph 4 of amended Constitution) :—'All such Honorary Vice-Presidents shall be invited to attend and take part in the meetings of the Executive, but shall have no vote.'

Mrs Gaffney thought that too much power was given to the Executive in proposing that they should have power to invite members to come and take part in the work. This was extending the honour too far.

The President, in answering this objection, said that great difficulty had been experienced by those desiring to organise Councils in their own countries, and that the power of inviting those responsible for this organisation to be present at the Executive had proved of great value to the International Council.

Fru Retzius seconded.

Mrs Creighton, Frau Bieber Boehm and Miss Anthony spoke against the words "and take part in the meetings."

**Miss Anthony** moved, seconded by **Frau Bieber Boehm**, "that they be omitted." Carried.

**Mrs Gaffney** moved, seconded by **Mrs Creighton** :—

"Resolved that the words 'may be invited' be substituted for the words 'shall be invited' in the same paragraph."

Carried.

This was carried, the amended paragraph now reading :—

"All such Honorary Vice-Presidents may be invited to attend but shall have no vote."

**Miss Wilson**, Corresponding Secretary, proposed that the following paragraph be added :—

"Distinguished women of any country, whose influence and support would be valuable to the International Council, may be invited by the President and Executive to join the Council as individual members. Such women shall be called Counsellors, and shall have a seat on the Executive, but may not vote."

She moved this in order that honour should be done to those women who had rendered world-wide service to the cause.

**Mrs Creighton** would allow such women to come in as Vice-Presidents, but would not let them take part in the meeting.

The President said that such women need not necessarily have done work on the International Council, but they must have worked eminently in the women's cause, and their work must not only have benefited their own country but others. Such women as **Miss Florence Nightingale**, **Mrs Julia Howe** and **Miss Clara Barton**, etc., would thus fall in the category indicated. In the truest sense of the word such women might be willing to give counsel to the International Council, and the latter body would only honour itself by including such names on its roll, and that without requiring them to pay a fee.

**Mrs Cummings** said that such women could be honoured in other ways than by practically making them members.

**Miss Anthony** said that the best way of honouring them would be for their individual admirers to put their hands in their pockets and pay their subscriptions for them. To select members in the way suggested would be invidious to the Patrons.

**Mrs Sewall** thought that the President and Executive of the International Council should invite no woman to sit on the Executive before her country had endorsed the selection. To the names that had been suggested she took no exception, but

American women would agree with her in saying that they found some of their countrywomen in high esteem in England whom they had practically never heard of in the States. And of the names of women whom *they* expected to find potent factors they rarely heard. If they were to work for the building up of the Council ideal, they must in no way ignore the National Councils and elevate the Council as opposed to the individual.

The proposition was not seconded, and thus fell through.

The President proposed :—

“That after the words ‘National Council’ the following be inserted :—‘Formed of Local Councils or Unions, or of representative societies or institutions, provided that their Constitution be in harmony with the basis of the Constitution of the International Council’ be omitted, and ‘with the approval of the Executive’ be inserted.”

**Lady Laura Ridding** seconded.

**Miss Anthony** said it seemed to her that a National Council in its true sense should not be formed of Local Councils, but of National Organisations. She did not know what was meant by Local Unions.

The President.—“The Councils in some countries are called Unions.”

**Miss Anthony** said that as to representative institutions they had discussed in the United States the question of welcoming institutions to be represented, but they felt it would be disastrous to a National Council, and it would be vastly more so in an International Council. They should confine themselves entirely to representative bodies arranged after the fashion of the Council, and not take institutions and associations of all kinds.

**Mrs Sewall** moved in amendment, seconded by **Mrs Cummings** :—

“That the words ‘National Societies’ be inserted after the words ‘formed of,’ and that the second and third ‘or’ be changed to ‘and,’ and that the word ‘representative societies and institutions’ be left out.”

**Lady Laura Ridding** said this amendment would limit the Council in too decided a manner. No society could become a National Society until it had weathered a good many years, and it was the object of the Council to further and develop work on the lines that was wanted. In England the National Council helped and encouraged the work among the feeble-minded.

That could not be called a national institution. It was in its first youth, but was being gradually developed. She would wish "representative" or some word of the kind retained for this reason.

**Mrs Creighton** said the amendment did not say that such societies could not join the National Council. It said the National Council must have National Societies belonging to it.

**Lady Laura Ridding** said she was satisfied if it was not intended to exclude such societies as she had mentioned.

The President said the amendment would read as follows:—

"Any National Council formed of National Societies and Local Council or Unions, and of Representative Societies and Institutions, etc."

**Mrs Willoughby Cummings** said she could not second that.

**Mrs Creighton** said it seemed a mistake to put the National Societies before the Local Councils, which were the most important units.

**Mrs Sewall** agreed to accept this as part of her motion, and Mrs Cummings not agreeing, **Miss Shaw** seconded the amendment in her stead. Carried.

The President moved:—

"That instead of the phrase 'not later than three months prior to its quinquennial meetings' shall be inserted 'in yearly instalments.' Also, the following:—'The Executive shall have power to reduce the fee of any National Council, if necessary.'"

The first part of the amendment was seconded and carried.

As to the second part of the amendment, **Miss Anthony** said it seemed ridiculous to suggest that a National Council could not raise 100 dollars in 5 years. If they reduced the fee in some cases they would get up an invidious distinction, and any society which came in under the reduced fee would feel poor indeed. If she were going to make a motion on the subject she would have the fee 500 dollars.

**Fröken Forchammer** asked what would be the effect in the case of a Council joining in the last year of a quinquennial.

**Mrs Sewall** said a sum was to be paid in annual instalments. If such a Council paid 20 dollars during the year, it had paid its full share.

**Mrs Gaffney** said the amendment seemed to be unnecessary if the remarks of the Vice-President were correct.

The amendment was withdrawn.

The President moved that a second section be added to Article IV. to the following effect:—

“All National Councils shall, on application for federation, send a copy of their Constitution and rules, and a copy of the resolution by which the application for federation was passed by the Council. And if, at any time, such Constitution and rules are altered, a copy of the alteration shall be sent to the Corresponding Secretary.”

Mrs Creighton seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mrs Sewall moved, seconded by Miss Shaw, that the following paragraph be added to Article IV. :—

“Any person, whose name is accepted by the Executive Committee, may become a patron of this Council upon the payment of £20 (100 dollars).”

As she sent this in originally, she said the amount was £40, and it certainly seemed to her that it was undignified that Patrons should come into the International Council at less than into the National. She would like to introduce an amendment restoring the original sum.

The President ruled this out of order.

Mrs Sewall said she would give notice of this amendment to be acted on 5 years hence. Meanwhile they would get as many Patrons at 100 dollars as possible.

Mrs Creighton moved the addition after “committee” of the words, “and approved by their own National Councils.”

Fru Retzius seconded.

Fröken Forchammer asked if this would prevent any person who was in a country where there was no National Council becoming a Patron.

Mrs Creighton consented to add the further words “where one exists,” and the amendment as amended was carried.

The President moved that to the existing paragraph be added:—

“The Honorary Vice-Presidents of countries where National Councils have not yet been formed, and a special assisting committee of five, appointed by the National Council of the country where the next Quinquennial Meeting is to be held.”

Mrs Creighton moved to omit the words “the Honorary Vice-Presidents of countries where National Councils have not yet been formed.”

The Rev. Anna Shaw seconded, and the amendment was carried.

The Rev. Anna Shaw said she wished the assisting committee of five to have no votes, or they would give the countries in which the meeting was to be held absolute control.

Lady Laura Ridding said the committee would have nothing to do with the meeting; only with making arrangements for it.

The Rev. Anna Shaw said if it meant only the external arrangements and not the programme or the conduct of the meeting, it might be well enough, but if it meant the programme and the form of conducting the meeting, that ought not to be left in the hands of a single Council, but should rest with the International body itself.

Mrs Creighton said the difficulty was that they did not know what was covered by the words "Quinquennial Meetings." The discussion of certain subjects in certain countries might be prejudicial to the country in which they met in a way that outsiders could not understand.

Mrs Sewall said she thought that the arrangement of Congresses might be left largely to the countries in which they met, but that the meetings of the Council itself must keep their international aspect distinct, and that to give one country a preponderating power over the programme because the Quinquennial Meeting was to be held there, might injure it in many ways. She moved that the Committee of five should be without power of voting.

The President said it seemed to her that this was one of those cases on which notice should have been given. She therefore ruled the amendment out of order.

Mrs Creighton said the only thing to do would be to move that there should be no assisting Committee of five.

The President.—You can vote against it as it stands.

The proposed amendment was then put and rejected.

Frau Simson moved that the following sentence be added:—

"The Hon. Vice-Presidents and the Presidents of Council which have not yet federated shall be invited to attend the Committee of Arrangements, but shall have no vote."

Mrs Creighton said that owing to the rejection of the last amendment some verbal alteration would be necessary.

Miss Anthony said this was part of the amendment which had been voted down, and should be voted down too.

No one seconded the motion, which therefore fell to the ground.

The election of International Officers was declared as follows :— President, Mrs May Wright Sewall ; Vice-President, The Countess of Aberdeen ; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Teresa F. Wilson ; Recording Secretary, Mlle. Camille Vidart ; Treasurer, Frau Schwerin.

**Frau Simson** said Frau Schwerin was not nominated with the knowledge of the National Council of Germany. She asked if it were possible for persons to be elected in that way without the consent of the National Council of their own country. It would only, she said, lead to discord.

**Frau Stritt**.—I think it very wrong.

**Mrs Creighton** said there was unfortunately nothing in the Constitution which made it wrong. At present it was constitutional.

**Frau Simson**.—Must we abide by the Constitution if it was unreasonable and unfair?

**The President**.—You can give notice of an amendment to be brought up at the next Quinquennial.

**Miss Anthony** said Frau Schwerin was asked if she would accept office, and there was a letter from her saying she would. She was nominated by the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and accepted the nomination. The Nomination Committee had, therefore, no alternative but to report her name.

The meeting then adjourned.

## FOURTH AND FINAL BUSINESS SESSION OF THE QUINQUEN- NIAL MEETING OF THE INTER- NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

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CASSIOBURY PARK, WATFORD.

*JULY 5, 1899.*

THE delegates were conveyed to Cassiobury by special train from Euston to Watford, where carriages met the train.

The final meeting of the International Council was held on July 5th at Cassiobury Park, Watford, Lady Aberdeen presiding.

The President opened the proceedings by bidding the delegates a hearty welcome to Cassiobury, which had been lent to her by her brother-in-law, Right Hon. Sir M. W. Ridley, for this occasion, hoping that this might be a pleasant termination to their business. She had much pleasure in announcing that Her Majesty the Queen had very graciously responded to her request that an opportunity might be provided for the visiting delegates to see Her Majesty. Colonial, American and foreign delegates would be admitted to the quadrangle of Windsor Castle on the following Friday before the Queen went out for her afternoon drive, and Her Majesty would drive slowly past them and desired that her guests should afterwards be entertained to tea and shown over the castle. Tickets for inclusion in this party could be had at Lord and Lady Aberdeen's London house, and Lord Aberdeen was making arrangements with the railway company for the running of a special train for the delegates. This intimation was received with great delight, and all united in



**HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA,**

*Who graciously received the Foreign, Colonial, and American Delegates and  
Members of the International Congress of Women at Windsor Castle,*

*Friday, July 7th, 1899.*

(Photo by Chancellor, Dublin.)  
(By kind permission.)

[To face p. 174.]



requesting Lady Aberdeen to convey a message of respectful thanks to Her Majesty.

Lady Battersea mentioned that a telegram was received the previous day at the garden-party at Gunnersbury from the Princess of Wales :—"I am very sorry not to have been able to come to the garden-party, but I wish it every success."

The minutes were then read and signed.

Mrs Creighton moved that the thanks of the Council be given to Mrs Willoughby Cummings for filling the arduous post of Recording Secretary at a moment's notice, and for performing the duties admirably.

The motion was seconded by Fru Retzius and carried.

Mrs Willoughby Cummings, in reply, said she was very much obliged. She was only glad to do anything for the Council.

#### AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

The President moved to add to Section 5 :—

"3. The President and two delegates from every federated National Council, together with the General Officers, shall alone have the right to vote at the meetings of the International Council. These officers and delegates, when unable to be present, may vote by proxy, under arrangements to be further specified in the Standing Orders."

Miss Shaw moved that the words after "proxy" be struck out and the following added, seconded by Mrs Dixon :—

"Such proxy being a member of the National Council which she represents."

Objection was raised that this would not only apply to International Officers, and Mrs Sewall said if an International Officer appointed a proxy that proxy must be a member of some National Council, but she thought an International Officer should be at liberty to select a proxy from any country.

Eventually the amendment was put in the following form, moved by Mrs Creighton and seconded by Mrs Sewall :—

"Such proxy of a General Officer must be a member of a National Council, which shall approve of the appointment."

Carried.

**Miss Shaw** moved to add, seconded by **Mrs Dixson** :—

“The proxy for a President or Delegate from a National Federated Council must be a member of the Council which appointed the representative.”

**Fru Retzius** asked if it was necessary to make so many restrictions. Sometimes it was very difficult to get a proxy.

**Mrs Dobson** (Tasmania) and **Miss Anthony** also objected on behalf of distant Councils, especially for the countries which were very far away.

**Mrs Creighton** asked if the difficulty did not arise from the Council not being strong enough to be so fully represented. Some day a meeting might be held in the Colonies, and then the British representatives would be in a difficulty. Full representation would be given to the Colonies, and if they could not avail themselves of it, it was not so unfair as it seemed.

After some discussion a delegate asked if this rule, if carried, would apply to meetings of the Executive as well as to meetings of the Council.

**Lady Aberdeen** from the Chair ruled that it would.

On motion of **Mrs Gaffney**, the question was put by the Chair, and carried.

The whole paragraph as amended was proposed by **Lady Aberdeen**, seconded by **Mrs Dobson**, as follows :—

“The President and two delegates from every federated National Council, together with the General Officers, shall alone have the right to vote at the meetings of the International Council. These officers and delegates when unable to be present may vote by proxy. The proxy of a General Officer must be a member of a National Council which shall have approved of her appointment. The proxy of a President or a delegate from a federated National Council must be a member of the Council which she is appointed to represent.”

Carried.

The President moved, seconded by **Miss Shaw**, Clause 4 of Article V., amended Constitution :—

“All members of Council, that is, all ordinary members of federated National Councils, may attend the meetings of Council, but may not vote.”

Moved in amendment by **Mrs Creighton**, seconded by **Mrs Dixson** :—

“That the words after ‘may’ be struck out, and the following be substituted, ‘be invited to attend the meetings, but may not take part in the proceedings without special invitation.’”

**Frau Simson** objected to the amendment.

**Mrs Sewall** was in favour of it.

**Mrs Cummings** said that such members were often in the position to give useful information, and why should they be debarred therefrom.

**Fru Retzius**.—Can they applaud?

**The President**.—No; I think that would be "taking part."

**Mrs Sewall** felt it was desirable to let the members feel that they could make communications if the President thought fit.

**Frau Bieber Boehm** thought it was very necessary for the members to be in a position of being able to give advice.

**Mrs Boomer** said that in Canada much benefit had grown out of this privilege being accorded to outside members.

**Miss Anthony** felt that by putting up such an iron-plank rule they might shut out many good suggestions. As only careful women would spend money to travel thousands of miles to attend these meetings, it was not likely they would indulge in trivial or unworthy remarks.

**Mrs Sewall**, in sharing **Mrs Boomer's** view, desired to see provision made for the careful nomination of Patrons who should be able to take part but not vote.

Finally, at the instance of **Mrs Creighton**, seconded by **Mrs Dixson**, and with the permission of the Council, the first amendment was withdrawn, and the following substituted:—

"All members of Councils, that is, all ordinary members of federated National Councils, may attend the meetings of Council, but may not take part in the proceedings except on the special invitation of the General Officers."

**Mrs Sewall** gave notice of motion that at the next meeting she would propose that "Patrons of the International Council may be present at all meetings of the Council, and may take part in the proceedings but may not vote."

She also drew attention to the fact that some provision should be made for the nomination of Patrons.

The President then proposed the following amendment to paragraph 5 of Article V. :—

"All business to be brought before the Council must first be submitted to the Executive as a notice of motion."

**Mrs Sewall** gave notice of motion for annual meetings of the Executive and special meetings of Council to be called by the

Executive officers. She felt that the Executive must always feel itself the servant of the Council.

**Mrs Dixson** said that in the interest of the distant Councils provision should be made for due notice to be given to those Councils if yearly meetings were decided on. It would be advisable to have a date by which business must be sent in.

**Mrs Sewall** agreed with this view.

**Mrs Gaffney** was opposed to limiting the time of bringing forward notice of any business before the Council.

The amendment was then put and carried, and the Council then proceeded to the consideration of the resolutions.

## RESOLUTIONS SENT IN BY THE EXECUTIVE AND BY NATIONAL COUNCILS.

### I.—HEADQUARTERS OFFICE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL.

**The President** said that the three first resolutions which stood in her name required little explanations at her hands. Her reasons for proposing them were set forth in a memorandum already in the hands of the members, and she now proceeded to move them *seriatim*. It was self-evident that it was almost essential to have a place where records could be kept and which in general should be convenient as a meeting place, and which could be regarded as such. The Executive could still consider the advisability of meeting elsewhere. She moved, seconded by **Mrs Creighton** :—

“ That a headquarters office be appointed for the International Council, where the meetings of the Executive shall in general be held, except on those occasions when the Executive shall arrange otherwise, or when the President or Vice-President shall deem it necessary as a matter of urgency to convene a meeting elsewhere.”

**Mrs Cummings** asked if the headquarters were to remain permanently in the same country.

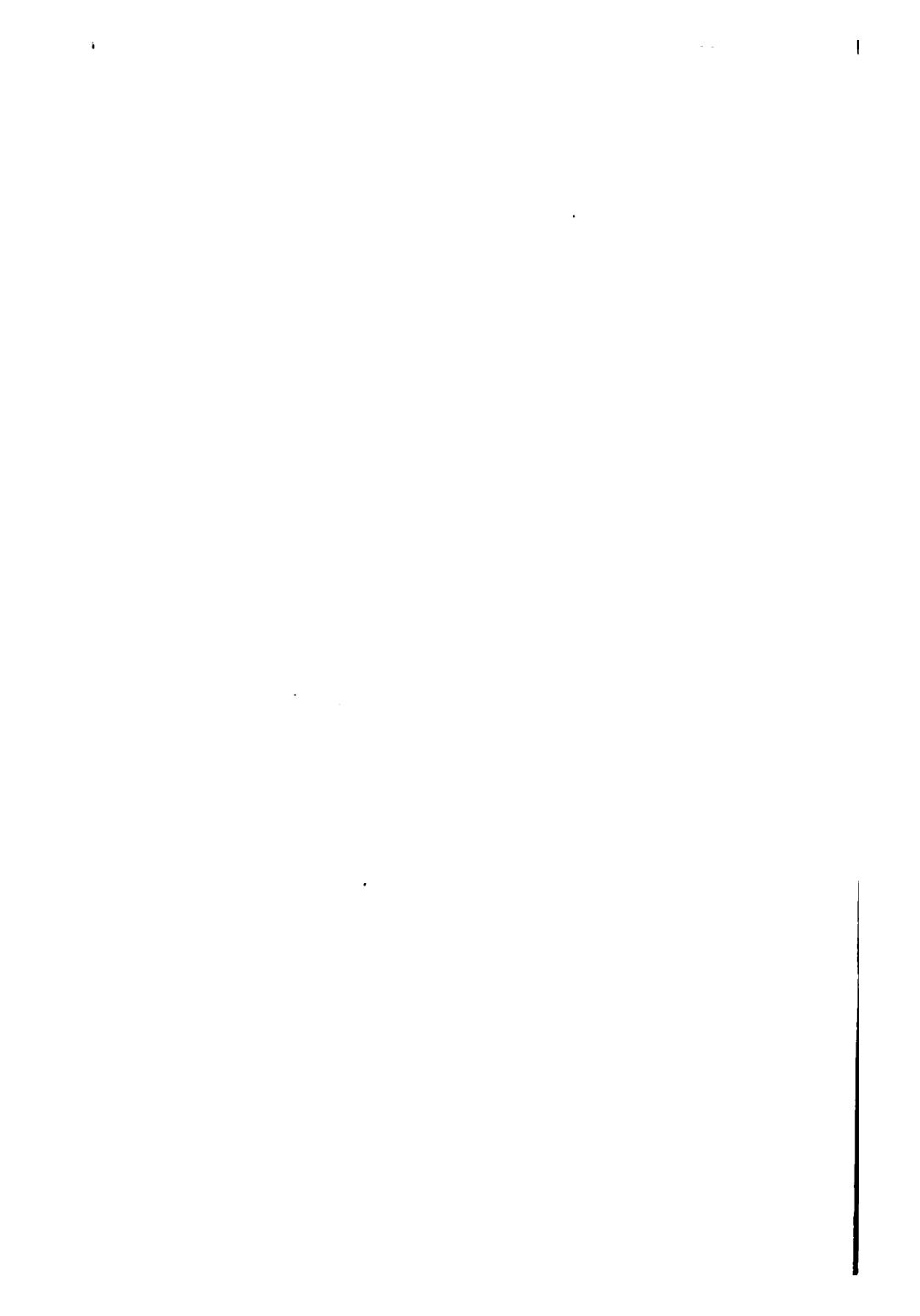
**The President** said that of course the place of headquarters could be changed at each Quinquennial Meeting. She merely desired to establish the precedent of the Council having a headquarters.



MRS. COBDEN UNWIN.

*Representative appointed by Mrs. May Wright Sewall to act for her  
on the Sub-Committee of Arrangements for the Congress of 1899*

*[To face p. 178]*



**Mme. Klerck van Hogendorp** said the headquarters should be in the country of the President for the time being.

Replying to **Mrs Creighton**, the **President** urged the importance of each Council doing its part in bearing the financial burden.

**Mrs Dixson** did not think that it would be practicable to change the office every five years, and it would be sufficient for each Council to maintain its own offices, and when the International Meeting was held in any country it would be the duty of the Council of that country to entertain it as royally as the English Council had done on this occasion.

**Mrs Sewall** felt that there ought to be a clear conception of what an International Council implied. The headquarters of the Council should always be identical with the residence of the President for the time being. In this case there need be no expense for rent—the only outlay being for clerical labour. For her own part, she had a large house in which she had plenty of room where work could be carried on. As President she felt that the offices of the Council must be in her own city, and while they might rent offices in the city, she did not think the same useful direct management of the work could be maintained as in the case of the offices being at the President's own house. In Canada, wherever **Lady Aberdeen** was, there were the headquarters, and had she been under a tent the headquarters would have been there too. But the financial burden should not fall on the President; an appropriation should be set apart by the Council for office expenses.

It was moved by **Mme. Klerck**, seconded by **Mrs Cummings** :—

“Resolved that the headquarters office of the International Council be in the country in which the President lives, and that the words in the former motion after International Council be struck out, and these latter be added.”

Carried.

The motion as amended was put from the Chair as follows :—

“That a headquarters office be appointed for the International Council, and that said office be in the country in which the President lives.”

Carried.

## II.—INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF INFORMATION.

The President moved :—

“That an International Bureau of Information concerning women’s work, women’s position and progress in all countries be formed under the auspices of the International Council. This bureau shall be under the management of a secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep in touch with women’s movement throughout the world. Membership of this bureau to be open both to societies and to individuals on the payment of a fee, which shall entitle them to receive answers to inquiries. Countries organising International Congresses and Conferences shall be allowed access to the information obtainable at this bureau, and to the services of the secretary, with the consent of the Executive, on payment of a fixed fee and the expenses of the secretary.”

Miss Kramers (Holland) seconded, and in doing so said they certainly desired a Bureau to which they could write and get an answer to their questions. There existed such an information bureau, and she would call the attention of the members of the Council to the Women’s Institute of Mrs Wynford Philipps. That Institute had existed for two years, and she had sometimes put questions to it, and everyone who had asked her to do so were satisfied with the answers. She believed they had secretaries and referees in all countries, even where there were no National Councils, so that if they wanted to know something about women’s movements all over the world, they could always address their questions to Mrs Philipps. She proposed that they establish an International Bureau in the Women’s Institute established by Mrs Philipps.

The President said Mrs Wynford Philipps had sent a letter which she had desired her to read to the Council :—

*Copy of Letter sent to the Countess of Aberdeen.*

June 26th, 1899.

DEAR LADY ABERDEEN,—On hearing, in the course of your presidential address to-day, that one of the aims of the International Council of Women is to establish an International Bureau of Information, several of my colleagues on the Executive Committee of the Women’s Institute conferred with me, and asked me to give you full information about the General Information Bureau of the Women’s Institute, which has been successfully established, and which has correspondents in almost all

parts of the world. It is under the direction of a gifted secretary—a graduate of Girton College—and she has the assistance of a number of secretaries who are being trained in our secretarial school. We are being helped in our work by hon. referees, distinguished men and women in art, science, literature, and other departments of work, who generously help us to make our bureau effective. We have a library, numbering already nearly 3000 volumes, including a number of books of reference on women's work, and we propose to constantly increase the number till our library is as complete as we can make it on this subject. As we have established an organisation for the purpose of giving information, we feel that the Council will wish to be made acquainted with our work before deciding to organise a separate information bureau for the use of women, and that they will wish to consider whether our bureau could be utilised for their great aim, in view of the fact that it is of international character, has a special department for research into women's employments, and has achieved definite and successful results during the last two years. I may add that we shall be glad to give the fullest particulars of our method of work, and would offer facilities to all National Councils of Women to obtain information from us.

May I ask you, as President of the International Congress of Women, to bring this matter before the Council when the subject is discussed? We have been most careful in the Women's Institute, as far as possible, to avoid overlapping with the excellent work done by other societies. We feel that this course is in harmony with the aims and methods of the International Council, and that co-operation, wherever it is possible, is most important, since it prevents a needless waste of energy, and enables the greatest amount of work to be achieved.—Yours very truly,

NORA WYNFORD PHILIPPS.

The President thought the Council would desire to know more closely what was suggested as to the management of the bureau, as if the International Council wished to form a bureau they would wish to have the control of the same. She had that morning received the following further letter:—

5 SOUTH EATON PLACE,  
LONDON, S.W., July 4th, 1899.

DEAR LADY ABERDEEN,—You kindly ask me to state in what way we could develop the International Information

Bureau of the Women's Institute, so as to work it in direct connection with the International Council, if the Council should consider our Institute Bureau a fitting centre as we hope.

Our Institute is governed by an Executive Committee of eleven appointed by the Council (of which you, Mrs Alfred Booth, and other members of the National Council belong, and of which I enclose a full list).

All the work of the Institute comes before the Executive, but several of the special departments have their own *special committees*, consisting in part of experts in each special subject. Thus the lecture department has a special committee (with the heads of women's colleges on it). The musical department has well-known musicians on the committee, and we would propose that the General Information Bureau should be formed partly of members of the International Council, who, we hope, would join the Institute to help in this work. We would hope that you would honour us by being the Chairman of the Information Bureau Committee, and that you would be a member of our Executive Committee.

We would hope that the International Council would appoint a number of ladies to serve on the committee. The members of our Executive have the right to attend the departmental committees, and we try to arrange that at least two members of the Executive do so, in order that the whole Institute should work in harmony, developing each department under the guidance of experts, yet keeping each part in harmony with the central idea.

If you would act as the guiding spirit of the Information Bureau and link it with the general work, this would be the greatest and best help.

We would propose that the Committee, when formed, should have power to co-opt a certain number of *other* members (but not necessarily members of the Institute), and this would enable us to invite presidents and officers of National Councils to give us the benefit of their help and advice when in England.

We should hope that all international officers would consent to join the committee.

The immense increase of work would make it necessary to increase the number of secretaries, who would need to be good linguists. We should propose, therefore, to have a special fund, to which all interested in the work might contribute, and the department could have its finances kept apart from the general

work, arranging a suitable adjustment for mutual convenience between the central body and the department.

This has been done with great success in our secretarial department, which has a separate account financially.

Our Executive Committee would do all in their power to meet the wishes of the International Council in the way in which the work was carried out. Believe me, dear Lady Aberdeen, yours very truly,

NORA PHILIPPS.

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE, 15 GROSVENOR CRESCENT, HYDE PARK CORNER, LONDON, S.W. (Founded on strictly Non-Party lines.) June 1899.

COUNCIL.

The Countess of Aberdeen, Mrs Hirst Alexander, Lady Charles Beresford, Miss Helen Blackburn, Mrs Alfred Booth (Pres. Nat. Union of Women Workers), Miss Jessie Boucherett, Mrs H. Percy Boulnois (Liverpool), Miss Edith Bradley, Miss Burstall (Manchester High School), Mme. Louisa Starr Canziani, Miss Cons, Miss Davies (Training School of Cookery, Univ. Coll., Cardiff), Miss Ella Hepworth Dixson, Miss Faithfull (King's College, London), the Hon. Lady Grey-Egerton, Lady Grove, Miss Grove (Prin. of Coll. Hall of Residence for Women, University Coll., London), Lady Hamilton (Tasmania), Mrs Hays Hammond, Viscountess Harberton, Miss Hitchcock (Kensington High School for Girls), Miss E. P. Hughes, Mrs Alfred Hunt, Miss Hurlbatt (Bedford College, London), Mrs Brynmor Jones, Mrs Viriamu Jones, Mrs Jopling Rowe, the Hon. Mrs Alfred Lyttelton, Miss Maitland (Somerville Coll., Oxford), Mrs Charles M'Laren, Mrs Eva M'Laren (Hampstead), Miss Maynard (Westfield College), Miss Moberly (St Hugh's Hall, Oxford), Miss Mondy (Sec. of Nat. Home-Reading Union), Lady Montagu, Miss Morison (Univ. Coll., Lond.), the Hon. Mrs Mure, Miss Rosalind Paget (Midwives' Institute), Mrs Peile (Christ's College Lodge, Cambridge), Lady Philipps, Mrs Wynford Philipps, Mrs Alfred Pollard, (Pres. of Ass. of Assistant Mistresses and Hon. Sec. C.A.B. Mem. Fund), The Countess of Radnor, the Hon. Mrs Bertrand Russell (Hon. Gen. Sec. Y. W. Branch, B.W.T.A.), Mrs Russell-Cooke, Mrs Scharlieb, M.D., M.S., Mrs Shurmer Sibthorp, Mrs Sidgwick (Newnham College), Mrs Bamford Slack (Cambridge), Lady Henry Somerset, Mrs Stope (Author of "British Freewomen"),

Mrs Swynneston, Mrs D. A. Thomas, Miss Janet Tuckey, Mrs Verrall (Associate of Newnham College, Cambridge), Miss Welsh (Girton College), the Dowager Lady Westbury, Miss Wordsworth (Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford).

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Miss Helen Blackburn, Mrs Cobden Sanderson, Miss Barbara Hamley, Mrs Hays Hammond, Miss Hewat, Mrs Wynford Philipps, Mrs Alfred Pollard, Mrs Bamford Slack, Mrs D. A. Thomas, Miss Janet Tuckey.

The *Women's Institute* was founded in 1897 to supply the demand which is being made for a centre of information and meeting-place for the convenience of those who are engaged in various departments of public, professional and philanthropic work, in science, literature and art. It is no part of the aim of the Institute itself to take up any department of work in competition with existing societies, much less to interfere in any way with their management. Its object is rather to make the work of existing societies better known, through its Information Bureau, through the circulation of literature, and through meetings and conferences held within its walls.

The Institute is founded on *strictly non-party lines*. It comprises several departments, which, as the demand arises, are being further multiplied and developed. Its chief departments at present are:—

1. *A Reference Library*, which now consists of about 2500 volumes, and is continually being increased by loan, gift and purchase. It is intended, within a short time, to organise a circulating library for the convenience of members.
2. *A Lecture Department*, which performs the double task of arranging the lectures and debates held in the Institute, and of directing a staff of qualified lecturers, who can be sent to any part of the country where their services are required.
3. *A General Information Bureau*, which gives information on women's work and general subjects. Members are entitled to send in 12 inquiries yearly free of charge. Non-members pay a fee of 1s. 6d. per question. Questions are answered either by members of the staff by means of the reference library and of tabulated

information kept in the Institute, or by honorary referees who kindly undertake to furnish replies on special subjects.

4. *A Secretarial Department.*
5. *A Musical Society.*
6. *A Recreation and Games Department.*
7. *An Art Society.*
8. *An Agency for Members' Requirements.*
9. *A General Agency.*
10. *Associated Societies and Register of Helpers.*
11. *Publication of Important Papers.*

#### MEMBERSHIP.

Men as well as women are eligible for membership.

The Institute aims at being a link between workers, not only in London, but in various parts of the world. As foreign, country and colonial members can comparatively rarely avail themselves of the Institute lectures and meetings, the following additional advantages are offered to them :

1. Membership without entrance fee.
2. The right to receive all publications of the Women's Institute, free of charge.
3. Four transferable tickets for lectures or debates.

#### CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Agreement to abide by and be subject to the rules and bye-laws of the Institute for the time being in force.

##### *Terms for General Members (Men and Women).*

	£	s.	d.
Town—Annual subscription	.	1	1
Entrance fee	.	1	0
Country—Annual subscription	.	1	0
No entrance fee.			

##### *Terms for Women who are Professionally Engaged, or who hold a position by Government Appointment, or by Public Election.*

	s.	d.
Town—Annual subscription	10	6
Entrance fee	10	6
Country—Annual subscription	10	6
No entrance fee.		

*Terms for American, Colonial and Foreign Members  
(Men and Women).*

	s.	d.
Annual subscription . . . . .		10 6
No entrance fee.		

The Institute is open daily from 10 to 7 except on Saturdays, when the hours are from 10 to 5, and on Sundays, when the library and reading room are open from 3 to 6.

The Institute will be closed on bank holidays, and for one month at the end of the summer.

**Frau Bieber Boehm** asked if it was necessary to have a Bureau of Information when one already existed. They might recommend all the National Councils to use this bureau.

The President said the offer was a generous one, as there was no suggestion that there should be any direct contribution from the Council to the bureau, though, of course, members joining would be supposed to do their best for it. It was for the consideration of the Council whether they would accept the offer made by the Women's Institute, and that the Information Bureau of the Women's Institute should become the International Bureau of Information under the auspices of the International Council.

With the permission of the Council the following resolution was substituted for the original one, and moved by **Mrs Creighton**, seconded by **Mrs Gaffney** :—

"That an International Bureau of Information concerning women's work, and women's principles and progress in all countries, would be useful to the work of the International Council; and that for the next quinquennial period the Information Bureau of the Women's Institute be used as such by the National Councils on terms to be arranged between the separate National Councils and the Women's Institute."

**Mrs Sewall** said that **Mrs Philipps** told her that in her opinion the adoption of the Bureau by the International Council would necessitate one or two secretaries, and that she would expect the International Council to maintain what additional secretarial service was necessary. She suggested that there should be a separate fund maintained by the subscriptions of those who took interest in the subject, so that nothing need be paid out of the general treasury of the International Executive at all. To her mind this Bureau meant the aggregation of a library relating to women, and the collection of statistics not

only from the Councils, but also from the statistical bureau of governments all over the world, and from all women's organisations everywhere. She hoped it might be done, and that for the next five years the foundation started by Mrs Wynford Philipps might be used, and that Lady Aberdeen might be induced to take a position on the Bureau in some way as suggested by Mrs Wynford Philipps, but if so the financial considerations involved must be met. She did not want to contribute to that discussion at all, but this must be considered.

**Mrs Creighton** said if her resolution was adopted there need be no discussion on finance.

**Miss Anthony** said all the Council could do for the next five years was to refer people to the Bureau, and for them to make their own terms.

**Mrs Creighton** said the resolution did not preclude the International Council in the next five years starting its own Bureau, or making terms with Mrs Wynford Philipps. She had every respect for Mrs Wynford Philipps' bureau, and thought it had proved more successful than they might have expected, but still it was a private venture, and she did not think the Council should adopt a private venture. If they adopted it as an International Bureau, they would be almost making it the International Council in the eyes of foreigners.

**Mrs Sewall** said she thought that Mrs Creighton's resolution covered all they at present could safely do, but she would like to have the International Council in some way formally related to the work, so far at least as to request Lady Aberdeen to accede to the invitation of Mrs Wynford Philipps that she should take her place as Chairman of the Bureau of Information.

**Mrs Creighton** said the resolution put them in a different position from that suggested by Mrs Wynford Philipps. She had suggested the new committee with the idea that the Bureau should become the International Bureau. She asked permission to put her resolution somewhat differently, and to add a rider to it. She moved to strike out all the words after "Council," and add—

"And that for the next quinquennial period the Council recommends that the Information Bureau of the Women's Institute be used as such by the National Councils, but the International Council specially desires that on all questions relating to, or connected with, the work of National Councils, Councils should correspond direct with other National Councils."

**Mrs Gaffney**, as seconder, accepted the alteration, and the resolution was put as amended and adopted.

### III.—NATIONAL BUREAUX OF INFORMATION.

**Mrs Willoughby Cummings** moved :—

“That every National Council be recommended to form a Standing Committee of Information, with the Bureau of Information if possible, where statistics regarding the women of the country shall be collected and kept up to date. The business of this committee or Bureau shall be to gather together and to give accurate information regarding the position, employment, education, pursuits, etc., of the women of the country, and to collect any further information required.”

She said they felt in the Canadian Council that this was going to be of great importance. They felt also that it was a good time to bring the matter before the several National Councils, as they hoped they would be called by their respective Governments, as they had been by their Government in Canada, to arrange such information to be presented at the Paris Exhibition. This had given a great impetus to the idea of having a National Bureau in Canada, because the work they were doing was exactly the same they would have to do to bring such a Bureau into being.

**Mrs Gaffney** seconded.

**Fröken Adelborg** mentioned that they had such a Bureau in Sweden in connection with the Frederika Bermen Association.

**Mrs Armitage** (New South Wales) said it would be for each nation to make its own arrangements.

**Fröken Adelborg** said she understood that just as the English women recommended the Women’s Institute, so they in Sweden could adopt theirs.

The motion was put and carried.

### IV.—ORGANISATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES.

**The President** moved :—

“That the International Council of Women do not in future undertake the responsibility of organising International Congresses of Women, but that it do adhere to the arrangements for the management of its own Quinquennial Meetings as set forth in its Constitution, leaving the organisation of International Congresses in the hands of National Councils who may desire to convene them.”

She said she wished to press this resolution very earnestly on the Council. She felt that the International Council had incurred a very great danger in trying to arrange the Congress and its own quinquennial business at the same time. The business and arrangements for the Quinquennial Meeting were in all conscience enough for the officers and Committee of Arrangements to provide for. She had ventured to press this view on the Executive which met in 1898, but they had decided to place the responsibility of the Congress on the Council, and she was thankful to think that the Congress had passed off as well as it had done, owing to the great help and kindness they had received from so many quarters. At the same time she had thought there was a danger and a risk, both to the Congress and to the International Council, and she ventured to hope that the resolution would be accepted.

**Mrs Creighton** seconded, and said the difficulty arose from the want of distinction between the meetings of the Council and the meetings of the International Congress. She thought such a Congress would be infinitely better organised by a National Council and not by an International Council, but that the meetings of the International Council should be organised by the International Council and that the two might be kept very distinct. The view taken by Lady Aberdeen had always been held by herself.

**Mrs Sewall** said she thought it would be better if the Council meetings could have begun and ended before the Congress began. The past Congress would be with them as an inspiration and a joy, and also as a warning that whenever the International Council and the Congress were convened at the same time the meetings of the Council should be entirely ended before the meetings of the Congress began. The Council had cut many of them off from meetings which they would have crossed the seas to attend. For herself, whose general interest was in education, she had not been able to go into a single educational meeting of the Congress, having either active duty or some other conference of the International Council to attend.

**Mme. Klerck van Hogendorp** pointed out that it reduced the expense for the Congress and the Council to go on at the same time.

**Frau Bieber Boehm** suggested that the afternoons should be used for Council meetings, and the mornings and evenings for the Congress.

**Miss Anthony** said if a National Council made all the arrangements for a Congress it would inevitably be an inexperienced committee, because they would move from one country to another, with the result that the thing would be an experiment with the Council of each nationality who got up a meeting. Moreover, if anything happened in the Congress contrary to the wish and goodwill and judgment of the International Officers, the latter would still be held responsible. They could not shirk the responsibility. The Council would bear the responsibility with the public mind, for the public mind would never discriminate between the Council and the Congress.

**Miss Anthony** suggested that at future Congresses the work of the Council should be more prominently brought forward in public meetings.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried.

**Mrs Sewall** moved as a rider:—

“The International Council recommends the National Council of the country where the Quinquennial Meeting is convened to organise an International Congress which shall not conflict with the meetings of the International Council.”

**Frau Stritt** seconded.

**Mrs Gaffney** said it had been her impression throughout the entire meeting that by the importance of the Congress they had diverted attention from the Council. People could not separate the Congress from the Council, and she thought it essential for the vitality and strength of the Council that they should keep the Council idea before the public more pre-eminently than the Congress. Their idea at present seemed to be to lay stress on the Congress, and the public knew nothing of the Council.

The rider was put and carried.

**Mrs Gaffney, Miss Anthony and Miss Shaw** desired, on behalf of the Council of the United States, to be placed on record as having objected to this resolution.

#### V.—INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

The fifth resolution on International Arbitration was proposed by the National Council of Women of Canada and by the National Council of Women of the United States. It ran:—

“That the International Council of Women do take steps in every country to further and advance by every means in their power the movement towards International Arbitration.”

**Mrs Gibbs**, in moving this resolution on behalf of the Canadian Council, said nothing touched a woman's heart so much as this, and after the meeting the other evening it could be put down as a question on which all women were agreed.

This was seconded by **Mrs Gaffney**, and carried.

The delegates from Sweden intimated they could not vote on this resolution as they were not free to discuss political questions.

#### VI.—INTERNATIONAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NATIONAL COUNCILS.

The Corresponding Secretary moved :—

“That some efficient method of communication by means of the Press be adopted by the International Council and between the different National Councils ; that a list of suitable newspapers and journals throughout the world be drawn up ; and that the editors be approached with a view to inserting items of International Council news in their papers.”

In proposing this **Miss Wilson** said she spoke rather in the name of a former Corresponding Secretary, **Mrs Avery**, than in her own. She had herself found difficulty in securing a means of communication owing to the absence of any newspaper devoting its columns to the Congress. The matter had been brought up at the end of the meeting of the journalistic section, but really too late to be of any service.

**Mrs Cummings**, in seconding, said that women's newspapers were generally ready to insert such notes if the matter was properly written and not too long.

**Miss Anthony** impressed upon them the necessity of a good Press Committee, who should know how to secure the insertion of items in the leading papers from which the smaller and more special ones would gladly copy. Their international work would be brought before the world by newspaper women who had influence with the daily Press.

**Mrs Sewall** pointed out that the resolution did not specify, but only said “some efficient means.” She was in favour of an International Press Committee, with one presswoman from every National Council.

**Mrs Boomer**, while acknowledging the work done by the Press, was more anxious as to the quality of the Press Sub-Committee than of the numerical strength of its members.

The resolution was then put and carried.

**Mrs Sewall** then proposed that the International Council authorise the Executive to organise a Press Committee, composed of presswomen from each of the ten countries, each woman having the endorsement for this post from the National Council of her country. She added that in the United States a woman had already been appointed.

The motion was seconded by **Frau Bieber Boehm** and carried.

#### VII.—LAWS CONCERNING THE DOMESTIC RELATIONS.

**Frau Stritt** moved :—

“That the National Councils of all countries be asked to consider the nature of the laws concerned with the domestic relations which exist in all civilised countries.”

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### VIII.—PLACE OF NEXT QUINQUENNIAL MEETING.

**Frau Bieber Boehm** moved that the next Quinquennial Meeting be held in Germany.

**Miss Anthony** seconded.

**Mrs Sewall**, while strongly in favour of accepting the invitation, said five years was a long time to look ahead. There might be international complications, seeing that arbitration was not yet accepted. She thought it would be better to have the question referred to the Executive.

The Rev. **Anna Shaw** supported the suggestion, but on a vote it was decided to accept the invitation of Germany unconditionally.

#### IX.—FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES INTERNATIONALLY ORGANISED.

The ninth and last resolution related to societies of women internationally organised, and was proposed by the Executive. It was as follows :—

“That Societies of women internationally organised, desirous of joining the International Council, may become members of the International Council, with the approval of the Executive.”

This was proposed by the **President**.

**Miss Kramers** (Holland) seconded.

**Frau Bieber Boehm** thought that the proposition would open the door to some abuse and lay the Council open to a charge of invidiousness.

**Miss Anthony** took a similar view.

Replying to **Mrs Armitage**, the President said that only associations which were in truth internationally organised, such as the Young Women's Christian Association and the World's Women's Temperance Association, which had branches in many countries, would be eligible. It might be a condition that branches should exist in four or five countries.

**Mrs Sewall** said similar things existed in every country. It was essential to maintain the dignity of their own societies.

**Miss Kramers** (Holland) said after what she had heard she would withdraw her seconding.

**Miss Shaw** said she would second the resolution, which was then put and lost.

**Mrs Gawler** proposed, and **Mlle. Monod** seconded, a cordial vote of thanks to the English Council for their hospitality on the occasion of this Congress.

**Mrs Sewall**, in supporting **Mrs Gawler's** motion, wished that those who gave the entertainments marked in the Handbook as the Official Entertainments be awarded a special vote of thanks. She especially referred to the President, the Duchess of Sutherland, Lady Battersea, **Mrs Creighton**, Lady Rothschild and **Mrs Leopold de Rothschild**. Carried.

It was decided by the Council that the minutes of this meeting be presented to the final meeting of the Executive for confirmation and adoption.

A letter, which was afterwards signed by the officers and Delegates, was read by **Mrs Gawler** of South Australia as a resolution, conveying the thanks of the visitors to their entertainers.

The work of the various committees, the Corresponding Secretary, the Stewards and others having been spoken of in cordial terms, it was moved by **Mrs Sewall**, seconded by **Mrs Boomer** :—

“Resolved that **Lady Aberdeen** be asked to present the thanks of the Council to all to whom we are indebted for the success of this splendid meeting of the Council.”

Carried.

It was moved by **Miss Shaw**, seconded by **Mrs Dixson** :—

“That at the close of the meeting any unfinished business be referred to the Executive Committee for them to deal with.”

Carried.

VOL. I.

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Moved by **Mrs Sewall**, and seconded by **Lady Battersea** :—

“That Lady Aberdeen be appointed Editor, and that she have printed the Transactions of this Congress and Council, and also write the Introduction to the same, with the understanding that the £300 voted by the Committee of Arrangements which had organised the Congress be used for this purpose.”

The newly-elected President gave an invitation to all delegates to meet her on Thursday afternoon at St Ermin's Hotel.

**Lady Aberdeen**, on behalf of the Canadian delegates, explained that they would be unable to be present or accept on account of an Executive Meeting of the Canadian Council.

**Lady Aberdeen** pointed out that no arrangements had been made to provide the means for the clerical work needed by the President.

**Mrs Dixson** moved, seconded by **Mrs Boomer** :—

“That the matter of providing for the clerical work needed by the President be left in the hands of the Executive.”

Carried.

**Miss Shaw** moved, seconded by **Fru Retzius** :—

“That the President be empowered to send a cordial vote of thanks of this Council to each of our many entertainers.”

Carried.

A special vote of thanks to Miss Wilson for her arduous work in connection with the Council and Congress.

The meeting adjourned for luncheon, at which the delegates were entertained by the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, and which proved a pleasant opportunity for exchanging farewell greetings and good wishes. Many of the delegates expressed their feelings in impromptu after-dinner speeches in a manner which will not easily be forgotten by those who were present.

After luncheon, **Frau Simson** moved, seconded by **Mme. Hogendorp** :—

“Resolved that the consideration of the Standing Orders be referred to the Executive Committee.”

The meeting concurred in this motion, which was carried, and the Second Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Women was declared closed by its President.



MISS L. M. FAITHFULL.

*Convener of the Educational Sectional Committee, November, 1898—  
April, 1899.*

(Photo by Kate Pragnell.)



MISS MAYNARD.

*Convener of the Educational Sectional Committee, April—July, 1899.  
[To face p. 194.]*



## Farewell Luncheon at Cassiobury Park.

*A sketch contributed by a delegate who was present, and printed by request.*

ONE of the most precious memories from the Congress that the delegates will bring home is the last gathering at Cassiobury Park. By the kind and generous courtesy shown to the delegates throughout the whole Congress by Lord and Lady Aberdeen, the officers of the Council, the delegates and honorary vice-presidents were invited to luncheon after the last meeting at Cassiobury Park. It was a lovely summer day, and the charming grounds looked at their best. Round the prettily-decorated luncheon tables there was a gay and animated conversation. In eloquent words the new President of the Council, **Mrs May Wright Sewall**, moved a vote of thanks for the beautiful hospitality shown by Lady Aberdeen, which vote was seconded by **Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg**. When Lady Aberdeen, in her own graceful way, had responded to Mrs Sewall's words, followed by Lord Aberdeen, **Miss Anthony** rose and said: "Girls—yes, I call you girls, as you are all girls compared with me—you have expressed your joy and your thankfulness that you have had an opportunity to be present at this Congress. What do you think I feel, I, who remember the time when the woman's cause had no friends outside a little group of pioneers? What do you think I feel when I, during this Congress, have experienced, that there is now a generation of women able to lead the work when the old pioneers will be away?"

When the cheers which followed this speech were over, **Mlle. Sarah Monod** from France responded, saying: "On behalf of the 'girls,' I, although 60 years, beg to thank **Miss Anthony** for what she has done to the upraising of humanhood and womanhood. Many of us here present are already grey-haired, but still we confess ourselves inexperienced 'girls,' who receive with thankfulness the inheritance she has given us."

On behalf of Sweden and Finland, **Baroness Gripenberg** said: We have come to this gathering with a heavy heart. We have to-day to say farewell to our devoted, honoured President, Lady Aberdeen, and we know that this is a moment of most serious importance for our Council. We agree in believing that

organisation is one of the best means to promote freedom and development. But organisation, like many other good things, is a two-edged sword, which can be turned against ourselves. We may have grand organisations with thousands of members, an excellent knowledge of all formal matters, clever speeches from the platform, and yet we may have failed utterly to obtain our aim if there is no earnest work behind our words, and if the spirit of love, truth, honesty, mutual understanding does not inspire us in our work. Our organised work must be carried on on the same moral principles as those we try to follow in our daily lives, or else it will lower, not raise us.

Lady Aberdeen, you have understood this; you have kept our work up to a high moral standard, and for this we feel the deepest gratitude to you. Nowadays much humbug is arraying itself under the cloak of organisation, and much selfishness is nourished under the name of self-development. We felt that this danger was far off when you conducted our work. Life deals seriously with us people up in the north. That makes us rather severe, as well against ourselves as against the ideals we want to realise. We felt ourselves guilty, my Swedish sisters and myself, when one of your members of Parliament recently said that women were unpractical because they were never satisfied with the good, they always aimed at perfection. Still, we felt that on this point you were on our side. You were also "unpractical." Lady Aberdeen, when we thank you for the six years you have been leading the way for us, we thank you especially for this, because we believe that "only under that banner we shall win the victory," only thus we shall be able to help to realise Christ's words, "Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you."

France, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Denmark, Russia, Holland, New Zealand, New South Wales, South Australia, West Australia, Palestine, all had enthusiastic words of thanks, of regret to the retiring President. At last, **Mrs Boomer**, the representative of Canada, rose and said: "I know it is late, and many speakers have been asked to reduce their speeches to the least possible; but you cannot expect that Canada should sit silent when Lady Aberdeen is praised. Lady Aberdeen belongs to Canada, and Canada belongs to Lady Aberdeen. This privilege we never give up, although she has left us. We cannot thank her as we should like to do, and as we feel; but we will try to follow the way she has shown us. May that be our thanks to Ishbel Aberdeen."

Lady Aberdeen, in her farewell speech, spoke warmly and heartily to the delegates, reminding them of the difficulties and duties of their work, but also of the noble aim of the Council. After luncheon was over, the Council meeting was continued; but when the transactions were ended, all gathered on the terrace, where coffee was served, and a photographer took a picture of the group. All were gay and sad at the same time, and so were the many "farewells" that were said. That to Lady Aberdeen was the heaviest, especially for those from the more distant countries, who could not expect to meet her soon again, who had come to the Congress hoping for much, and who left it assured that the Council idea will prosper as long as women of noble ideals are among its leading spirits.

## A MESSAGE OF THANKS.

*5th July 1899.*

The President, Vice-Presidents and Delegates of the International Council of Women feel that they cannot disperse to their various homes and countries without expressing their warmest thanks to the ladies who have contributed so heartily and generously to the pleasure of their visit. They have felt the benefit of the relaxation from work which the beautifully-arranged entertainments and hospitality have afforded them, of which they will always have a charming memory.

They also desire to express their appreciation and their thanks to the Hon. Secretary and Committee of Hospitality for the trouble they have taken, and for carrying to a successful issue their different duties.

We, the undersigned, most heartily concur in the above expression of gratitude to all our kind friends.

United States, . . . FANNIE HUMPHREYS GAFFNEY, President.  
Germany, . . . Frau ANNA SIMSON, acting for President.  
Sweden, . . . ANNA HIERTA-RETZIUS, President.  
New South Wales, . DORA E. ARMITAGE, Proxy for President.  
Denmark, . . . HENRIE FORCHAMMER, Proxy for President.  
Holland, . . . Dowager KLERCK HOGENDORP, President.  
Tasmania, . . . E. DOBSON, for President.  
New Zealand, . . . KATE M'COSH CLARKE, for President.  
Queensland, . . . LALA FISHER, Hon. Vice-President.

West Australia, . . . L. WITTENOOM, Hon. Vice-President.  
Canada, . . . H. A. BOOMER, acting for President.  
Argentine Republic, CECILIA GRIERSON, Hon. Vice-President.  
Cape Colony, . . . Mrs STEWART, Hon. Vice-President.  
Austria, . . . MARIANNE HAINISCH, Hon. Vice-President.  
South Australia, . . . CAROLINE A. GAWLER, Delegate.  
Holland, . . . M. W. W. RUTGERS-HOITSEMA.  
United States, . . . SUSAN B. ANTHONY.  
Denmark, . . . CHARLOTTE NORRIE.  
Switzerland, . . . CAMILLE VIDART.  
New South Wales, . . . EMMA E. DIXSON, Delegate.  
Norway, . . . GINA KROG, Hon. Vice-President.  
Sweden, . . . { GERTRUD ADELborg, Delegate.  
                  ELLEN WHITLOCK, Delegate.  
ISHBEL ABERDEEN, President.  
MAY WRIGHT SEWALL, Vice-President.



MRS. J. R. MACDONALD.

*Convenor of the Legislative and Industrial Sectional Committee.*



MRS. BROADLEY REID.

*Convenor of the Literature Sectional Committee.*

(Photo by J. Thomson.)

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## MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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*ST ERMIN'S HOTEL, JULY 8, 1899.*

THE new President, **Mrs May Wright Sewall**, called the meeting to order at 10 o'clock, and after expressing her pleasure at meeting the members present, called upon the Corresponding Secretary to read any letters to be brought before the meeting.

Miss Wilson read a letter from Madame Féresse Deraismes.

Lady Aberdeen moved, seconded by **Mrs Purdy Peck** :—

“That the thanks of this meeting be conveyed to Madame Féresse Deraismes for her letter.”

Carried.

The Roll was called, when the following members answered to their names :—

President, **Mrs May Wright Sewall**; Vice-President, **Lady Aberdeen**; Corresponding Secretary, **Miss T. F. Wilson**; Recording Secretary, **Proxy for Mlle. Vidart**, **Mrs Willoughby Cummings**; Treasurer, **Proxy for Frau Schwerin**, **Frau Bieber Boehm**.

Vice-Presidents, Executive Officers.—United States—Proxy for **Mrs Gaffney**, **Mrs Peck**; Canada—Proxy for **Lady Aberdeen**, **Mrs Boomer**; Germany—**Frau Simson**; Sweden—Proxy, **Miss Adelborg**; Denmark—Proxy, **Miss Forchammer**; Holland—**Miss Kramers**.

Hon. Vice-Presidents.—Italy—**Mrs Crawshay**; Austria—**Frau Hainisch**; South Australia—**Mrs Gawler**; Cape Colony—**Mrs Stewart**; India—**Mrs Steele**; Persia—**Mrs Hamilton**; Argentine Republic—**Dr Grierson**; Palestine—**Mme. Mountford**.

Neither the Corresponding Secretary nor the Treasurer had further reports to make.

The President stated that she thought it would be necessary to have a further meeting of the Executive to receive the report of the Finance Committee.

There were no further reports from National Councils.

The Hon. Vice-Presidents present stated informally the prospects there seemed to be of forming National Councils in their respective countries.

**Frau Hainisch** asked that all papers and other communications for either of the three sections of the kingdom be sent to her, as she would direct them to the proper persons.

A discussion as to whether Austria and Hungary should organise as separate National Councils or as one followed.

The President regretted that there was not time to continue the discussion, and said that what had been stated was valuable, as suggesting lines for investigation in the future as to the formation of a National Council of Austria, consisting of three sections—Austria, Hungary and Bohemia.

**Lady Aberdeen** hoped that before the next Quinquennial Meeting the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland might have sections for Scotland and Ireland.

The President said that each of these sections should be regarded as parts of one National Council. She said, in reply to **Frau Hainisch**'s request, that the Hon. Vice-President in each country where one has been appointed should be the person with whom all communication is made, and that she in turn should send a list to the Corresponding Secretary of the names of those to whom she has distributed the papers sent to her, in order to avoid confusion.

**Mrs Gawler**, who is removing from South Australia, suggested **Lady Tennyson** as Vice-President for that Colony.

**Mrs Stewart**, in speaking of the probabilities of a National Council being formed in South Africa in the near future, said that Natal should have a separate National Council, and suggested the names of some ladies who might help forward the movement there.

The President asked whether the Hon. Vice-Presidents who were willing to serve for another term should not be confirmed in the office by this Executive?

**Lady Aberdeen** thought they should be elected by the Executive according to Article III. of the Constitution.

**Mrs Gawler** asked if an Hon. Vice-President should be a resident in the country she represented?

**Lady Aberdeen** thought it was certainly best to have a resident.

Moved by **Mrs Purdy Peck**, seconded by **Lady Aberdeen** :—

“That the Hon. Vice-Presidents appointed for the Quinquennial term just closed shall be confirmed in their office by this Executive, and shall be continued where they retain residence in the countries they represent and are willing to act until such times as National Councils can be formed.”

Carried.

It was agreed that Mme. Bogelot continue Hon. Vice-President for France, Mlle. Vidart for Switzerland, where a Council has almost been formed by her, Mlle. Marie Popelin for Belgium, the Countess Taverna for Italy, Madame Anne de Philosoff for Russia, Fröken Krog for Norway, Lady Clarke for Victoria. Lady Tennyson's name was recommended for South Australia, and that of Lady Onslow for West Australia.

The President said it must be understood that the new names were not confirmed, only suggested.

It was decided that Lady Aberdeen be empowered to secure an Hon. Vice-President for Queensland.

**Mrs Stewart** of Lovedale was reappointed for Cape Colony.

The President requested that any person who had names to suggest for the Hon. Vice-President for India should communicate with her.

**Mrs Hamilton** was reappointed for Persia; and Mme. Shen was to be communicated with about China.

As Mrs Mountford will not be resident permanently in Palestine, it was decided that it would be advisable to appoint someone whose home was there.

The Baroness Gripenberg was reappointed for Finland.

Lady Aberdeen conveyed the regrets of a lady from Siam and one from Japan, who had hoped to have been able to represent their countries at the Congress.

**Mrs Crawshay** explained the many difficulties that existed in Italy which affected the formation of a Council there, and said that an outsider residing there could best help on the formation of a Council.

The name of the Countess di Brazza was suggested as one likely to be successful.

The Corresponding Secretary spoke of efforts that had been made to interest the women of Greece, Spain and Portugal, and

Dr Grierson hoped that councils for Chili and the other South American countries might be organised.

**Mrs Boomer** (of Canada) rose to a question of privilege, and begged leave to move, seconded by **Mrs Peck** (of the United States), and supported by representatives of the Councils of Germany, Sweden, New South Wales, Denmark, Holland, New Zealand and Tasmania, and the Hon. Vice-Presidents of France, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, Russia, Austria, Norway, Victoria, South Australia, West Australia, Queensland, Cape Colony, India, Persia, Argentine Republic, Palestine and Finland :—

“Resolved that the Countess of Aberdeen be requested to convey to Her Majesty the Queen the grateful thanks of this Council for the gracious reception and hospitality shown to the Foreign, Colonial and American Delegates.”

Carried.

Moved by the **President**, seconded by **Frau Simson** :—

“That the grateful appreciation of all who enjoyed the pleasure given on Friday be extended to Lady Aberdeen, and an acknowledgment of their sense that it was to her generosity and care that it was due.”

Carried.

This was also supported by the representatives of all the National Councils.

**Lady Aberdeen** thanked the Executive for the resolution, and said it would be a great pleasure to convey the thanks expressed to the Queen.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Council were read and confirmed.

It was decided that papers and corrections for the printer must be sent to Lady Aberdeen by July 30th, and it was urged that the representatives try to secure orders for the Transactions in their various countries, probable cost, 2s. 6d. a volume, or 12s. 6d. for the set of six.

Before the business was resumed, **Lady Aberdeen** proposed that the name of the Baroness Gripenberg be accepted as a Patron of the International Council.

Moved by **Miss Adelborg**, seconded by **Mrs Cummings** :—

“That the name of the Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg be accepted as a patron of the International Council.”

Carried.

As Mrs Purdy Peck was obliged to withdraw, she appointed **Miss Anthony** as proxy.

It was decided to hold an adjourned meeting of the Executive on Monday morning at 11 a.m. in the same place, on a motion of **Fröken Forchammer**, seconded by **Frau Simson**.

The amendments to the Standing Orders for the use of the Executive were next considered after the Corresponding Secretary had read a minute from a meeting of the Executive in 1897 showing that the Standing Orders aforesaid had been adopted by that body.

Moved by **Lady Aberdeen**, seconded by **Miss Adelborg**—Article I., No. 1, latter part :—

“That the words ‘by the President or Acting-President’ be inserted after the word ‘together.’ The rule to read, ‘Not less than four months’ notice be given to each member, unless most urgent business compels the Committee being called together by the President or Acting-President at shorter notice.’”

After some discussion it was moved in amendment to the amendment by **Mrs Cummings**, seconded by the Corresponding Secretary :—

“That for the words ‘At shortest notice’ be substituted the words, ‘At such notice as will allow communication with each National Council.’”

Carried.

The amendment to the motion was put and carried, and the whole paragraph as amended was put to the meeting as follows :—

“Not less than four months’ notice shall be given to each member unless some urgent business compels the Committee being called together by the President or Acting-President at such notice as will allow communication with each National Council.”

Carried.

Moved by **Frau Bieber Boehm**, seconded by **Miss Adelborg** :—

“That where the word ‘Council’ is used it be further specified, so that it be clear whether the International Council or a Federated National Council is meant.”

Carried.

Moved by **Frau Bieber Boehm** "That paragraph 2 be omitted" was not seconded, and was declared lost by the Chair.

**Frau Simson** gave notice of motion, that at the next meeting she will move that paragraph 2, Article I., be amended so as to increase the number of members of the Executive, at whose request the President must call a special meeting.

Moved by **Frau Bieber Boehm**, seconded by the **Rev. Anna Shaw** :—

"That the words 'silent prayer' in paragraph 4 be replaced by the words 'opening remarks by the President.'"

Carried, Canada only dissenting.

Moved by **Frau Simson**, seconded by **Mrs Cummings**, that the following be added to paragraph 16 :—

"The minutes of the meeting shall be read, corrected and approved at the end of each session."

After some discussion as to the advisability and practicability of this motion, it was put to the meeting and carried.

**Mrs Cummings** moved, seconded by **Frau Simson**, that the meeting stand adjourned until 11 o'clock on Monday morning.

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#### *MONDAY, JULY 10, 11 A.M.*

The President asked what was to be done, as by Standing Orders adopted it was necessary to have two-thirds present—that would be 10, and there was now only 9.

**Miss Anthony** proposed, **Lady Aberdeen** agreed, that the business be proceeded with, as another might come in, and, if necessary, any matters of importance might be voted on again.

**Lady Battersea** having come in, the quorum was completed.

The minutes were read and, after some corrections, were adopted on motion of **Mrs Gibbs**, seconded by **Fröken Forchammer**.

Consideration of the Standing Orders recommended for use of the International Council of Women was next taken up.

The President stated that as but few amendments had been sent in by the National Councils, it seemed advisable that any further amendment suggested by this meeting be sent out as recommendations only.

## ARTICLE I.

Clauses 1 and 2 were read and approved.

**Fräulein Hoffmann**, proxy on behalf of the Treasurer, moved, on behalf of Germany, seconded by **Miss Anthony**, that Clause 3 be omitted.

**Lady Aberdeen** suggested that notice of motion be made that Clause 3 be amended so as to agree with a similar clause in the Standing Orders for the Executive :—

“That Clause 3 be amended by substituting ‘two-fifths’ for ‘five,’ and that the following words be added to the paragraph :—‘Four months’ notice must be given in such cases, and the place of meeting be left to the option of the President. The names of the members of the Executive requesting the meeting shall be mentioned in the notice summoning the meeting.”

With these notices of motion the mover and seconder agreed to adopt Clause 3.

The President said that as these amendments were endorsed by the Executive, they would be sent out to the National Councils with the notice that they will be acted upon during the next quinquennial period.

Clause 4. Amendment, moved by **Fräulein Hoffmann**, seconded by **Lady Battersea** :—

“That in paragraph 4 the words ‘or at any other time’ be omitted.”

After some discussion the mover and seconder decided to withdraw the amendment, and the original paragraph was adopted.

Clause 5 was adopted.

Clause 6. Amendment, moved by **Fräulein Hoffmann**, seconded by **Miss Anthony** :—

“That the words ‘silent prayer’ be replaced by ‘Opening remarks of the President.’”

**Mrs Gibbs** desired that the National Council of Canada be placed on record as protesting against the omission of the words “silent prayer.”

**Miss Anthony** thought that the omission of the words would not preclude anyone who wished to do so from making a prayer.

**Lady Battersea** wished to know if it would be possible to amend again after the meeting in Germany, where it is not the custom to begin the meeting with prayer.

The amendment was carried by a standing vote—5 for, 3 against.

**Lady Aberdeen** gave notice of motion that she will move an amendment that in this clause the word "silence" be placed before "opening remarks by the President."

The **President** read the whole clause. With the addition of the words "Election of Officers," which had been omitted by mistake, the whole clause was adopted.

It was understood that the Committee and Sub-Committee to be appointed would put the various sub-sections in proper order.

Clause 7 read and agreed to.

Clause 8 read and agreed to, **Miss Anthony** giving notice that she will move the omission of the words:—

"A full month before the Quinquennial Meetings."

Clause 9 read and agreed to, the note to form part of clause.

Clause 10 read, and decided to omit, as contrary to the Amended Constitution.

Clause 11 read by the **President**, with the amendment proposed by Germany, moved by **Fräulein Hoffmann**:—

"That, in paragraph 11, 'six months' be substituted for 'one year,' 'two months' for 'six months,' and 'two months' for 'three months,' and to add, 'Federated National Councils not sending in any acknowledgment are supposed to agree.'"

The **President** thought there ought to be some way of bringing in new business for the agenda that had not been thought of one year before.

**Lady Aberdeen** thought that such could be dealt with in the Conferences, and said the value of the work of the Council was the fact that every matter voted upon had been considered and acted upon by all the National Councils.

**Fräulein Hoffmann** thought the Executive should have power in the matter to introduce urgent business.

The **Corresponding Secretary** moved in amendment to the amendment that the words "and Conference" be struck out, and that "ten months" be substituted for "one year," and "five" for "six months."

**Fräulein Hoffmann** having accepted **Miss Wilson's** motion, instead of that standing in the name of the German Council, became the seconder.

The clause was therefore read as follows :—

"A preliminary agenda for the Quinquennial Council shall be sent out to each National Council ten months before the Quinquennial Meeting, and shall be laid before each such body for discussion, in order that notice of amendment, alteration or withdrawal, if desired, may be sent back to the Executive four months after its receipt. The final agenda, with all amendments, shall be received by each Federated National Council three months before the Quinquennial Meeting."

As there was no seconder to the second clause of German amendment, it was struck out.

Clause 12 read and agreed to, with the addition of the words, "Resolutions for the Quinquennial Meetings of the Council and suggestions for Conferences."

Clause 13. In discussing this clause, **Mrs Sewall** gave a notice of motion that at the proper time she would move that each National Council shall be represented at the Council meetings by one person for each of the subdivisions of the work of the International Council.

The amendments sent by the German Council to clause 13 not being moved, they were withdrawn.

Clause 13 was agreed upon as it stands.

**Lady Aberdeen** gave notice of motion of an addition to Clause 14—

"That suggestions for Conference may be sent in to the Corresponding Secretary at such time before the International Meetings as may be fixed by the Executive."

Clause 14 read and agreed to.

Clause 15 read and agreed to.

Clause 16 read and agreed to.

Clause 17 read and agreed to.

A discussion followed upon the language to be considered official by the International Council. It was understood that official documents shall be translated by each National Council into the language of their various countries.

## ARTICLE II.

Clause 18 read and agreed to.

Clause 19 read and agreed to.

Clause 20, amendment proposed by Fräulein Hoffmann, seconded by Lady Aberdeen:—

“That the words ‘President of a Federated Council’ be substituted for ‘National Vice-President.’”

Agreed to.

Clause 21 read and agreed to.

Clause 22 read and agreed to.

Clause 23 read and agreed to.

Clause 24. Amendment moved by Fräulein Hoffmann, seconded by Miss Anthony, that the word “written” be inserted before “instructing.” Agreed to.

Lady Aberdeen gave notice to amend, by the addition of a Standing Order, which will make the clause agree with the spirit of the vote under No. 9, as follows:—

“Officers are at liberty to give their proxies freedom to vote according to their own convictions on any matter on which the actual officer considers that she has not sufficient information to give definite instructions. In such cases the proxy is expected to vote in accordance with the opinion of the officer they represent as far as they can judge of the same.”

Clause 25 and Note read. Amendment proposed on behalf of the German Council by Fräulein Hoffmann, seconded by Fröken Forchammer:—

“That in paragraph 25 the words ‘given through a public meeting of the same, or through its Executive, if especially empowered in this regard,’ be omitted.”

Lady Aberdeen and Miss Anthony spoke against the amendment.

Mover and seconder agreed to drop the amendment of the German Council.

The clause as in the original agreed to, with note included.

Clause 26 read. Agreed that the whole clause be omitted.

Clause 27. Amend clause by leaving out all words after “ballot,” and also the words “if the election is to be by ballot,” in Clause 28, and the remainder of Clause 28 to be added, so as to make one clause of the whole. Agreed to.

Clause 29 read and agreed to.

#### ARTICLE IV.

Clause 30 read and agreed to.

Clause 31. Whole clause to be omitted.

Clause 32 read and agreed to.  
Clause 33 read and agreed to.  
Clause 34 read and agreed to.  
Clause 35 read and agreed to.  
Clause 36 read and agreed to.  
Clause 37 read and agreed to.  
Clause 38 read and agreed to.  
Clause 39 read and agreed to.  
Clause 40 read and agreed to.  
Clause 41 read and agreed to.  
Clause 42 read and agreed to.  
Clause 43 read and agreed to.  
Clause 44 read and agreed to.  
Clause 45 read and agreed to.  
Clause 46 read and agreed to.  
Clause 47 read and agreed to.

Clause 48 read, and, with the omission of the words "when the motion has been placed on the paper and instructions have been given to the delegate how to vote," was agreed to.

Clause 49 read and agreed to.

Clause 50 read, and after the words, "On all questions regarding which they have received definite instructions from their respective Councils," had been added to the clause, it was agreed to.

Clause 51 read, and changed to "The business meetings of the Council shall be open only to its official reporters," and to the end was added, "and also to each Hon. Vice-President." It was then agreed to.

Clause 52 read and agreed to.

A new clause, 53, was added, on the motion of **Lady Aberdeen**, seconded by **Miss Anthony** :—

"The International Officers shall be *ex-officio* members of all committees."

This clause to be acted on at once.

**Lady Aberdeen** moved, seconded by **Miss Anthony** :—

"That the Standing Orders for the International Council, as amended and agreed to, be recommended for adoption."

Carried.

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**Lady Aberdeen moved, Miss Anthony seconded :—**

“That the Committee appointed to re-arrange the Constitution and Standing Orders be the Officers, with permission to add to their number.”

Carried.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES.

**PRESS COMMITTEE.**—The President stated that she understood that this Committee was to be appointed, each National Council to nominate one member, and these names to be sent to the Executive Committee for approval.

In answer to a question, the President stated that in countries where no Council is formed the Hon. Vice-Presidents should nominate someone to the Committee for her country.

In reply to another question, it was suggested that all Council news should be sent from one member of Press Committee to another for insertion in leading newspapers, and that no effort be made at present to get a Council organ.

**Miss Anthony** suggested that the chairman of the Press Committee be the member for the United States, and nominated Miss Harper for the office.

**Mrs Cummings** thought that while a chairman is a necessity, still each national member should be responsible for the work in her own country.

**INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.**—The President thought there should be a Standing Committee on this subject, each National Council to appoint one member, and that **Lady Aberdeen** be chairman of this Committee.

**Mrs Gibbs** moved, and **Miss Anthony** seconded :—

“That **Lady Aberdeen** be appointed as Chairman of the Standing Committee on International Arbitration.”

Carried.

It was suggested that Baroness Bertha von Suttner be Secretary of this Committee. Carried.

**LAWS CONCERNING THE DOMESTIC RELATIONS.**—One member to be appointed by each National Council.

The Chairman to be the nominee of the German Council.

The President stated that invitations had been received from French women that the Council should be represented in the Congresses held during the Paris Exposition.

The President stated that it seemed to be the desire of the delegates that headquarters for the Council should be arranged for in Paris during the Exposition. Some discussion took place as to the way this could be done, and it was pointed out that it would be necessary to find out if the financial condition of the Council would admit of any action being taken.

Moved by Miss Anthony, seconded by Fräulein Hoffmann :—

“That it is recommended by the Executive Committee that there shall be a representation of the International Council in Paris during the Exposition of 1900, and that the arrangement for the same be left to the General Officers.”

Carried.

**EXPENSES OF CLERICAL SERVICES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, STATIONERY, ETC.**—The President stated she thought the sum should be, if possible, £100 annually (500 dollars).

The Corresponding Secretary said that expenses of her work two years ago for postage, stationery, etc., was about £20, but that, as more Councils now existed, the expenses would be more at present.

Moved by Mrs Cummings, seconded by Miss Anthony, supported by Lady Aberdeen :—

“That the matter of the expenses of the President and Secretaries' offices be left to the meeting of the Executive Committee, to be held next year, but that for this present year the Treasurer be directed to pay the expenses of the Corresponding Secretary, President and Treasurer for printing, postage and stationery, after the bills were initialled by the President, and that a further minimum sum of \$300 be provided for by the Finance Committee for the clerical work in the President's office.”

Carried.

The President asked if any other business should be attended to.

Moved by Lady Aberdeen, seconded by Miss Anthony :—

“That all unfinished business be committed to the general officers, with the understanding that in all important matters the will of the Executive be ascertained through correspondence.”

Carried.

The minutes were read.

The President stated that she must communicate three things to the Executive.

1st. That a resolution had been passed by a body of women representing France, Germany, Sweden, United States, Denmark, Holland, stating their intention to form an International Committee, to promote the following three objects:—

For promoting equality of economic conditions, political equality, and legal equality in each country.

A letter was read from Mrs Crawshay regarding the work of organising a Council in Italy.

Lady Aberdeen gave an invitation from the Duchess of Sutherland for a tea in the afternoon.

Lady Aberdeen also moved a vote of thanks to the President for having presided.

The President thanked the members, and said, also, that a message of sympathy had been sent to Frau Simson, who was ill.



HON. MRS. ALFRED LYTTELTON.

*Convenor of Political Sectional Committee, November, 1898—April, 1899;  
President of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and  
Ireland, October, 1899.*



MISS E. S. LIDGETT.

*Convenor for the Political Sectional Committee, May—July, 1899.*

(Photo by Russell & Sons.)

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## PUBLIC MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

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QUEEN'S HALL.

*TUESDAY, JUNE 27, EVENING.*

THE organisation of this meeting was entrusted by the Committee of Arrangements to the Countess of Aberdeen, who received most able assistance from Miss Constance Hargrove as honorary secretary, and from an Advising Committee of members of various peace societies, and others whose names will be found with the list of the other committees.

The authorities of the Boys' Brigade in London kindly offered the services of a number of officers and boys of the brigade as stewards.

Mr Henry Bird, organist of St Mary Abbot's, Kensington, undertook the direction of the musical part of the programme, and presided at the organ, giving a selection of national airs before the commencement of the meeting.

Miss Esther Palliser, the Misses Muriel and Hilda Foster, Miss Ella Walker, and the Choir of St Mary Abbot's, Kensington, conducted by the choirmaster, Mr Stagoll Higham, kindly volunteered their services for the occasion.

An immense concourse of people, a large proportion of which were women, assembled in the great hall, filling it in every part to show their sympathy with the International Council of Women in its advocacy of International Arbitration.

The Countess of Aberdeen, as President of the International Council, took the Chair, and was supported by all the leading delegates of the Council, and by a number of friends of the Peace Movement amongst the clergy and House of Commons.

The following programme was arranged for the evening, though towards the end of the proceedings some items were reluctantly omitted, owing to lack of time:—

Sacred Song . . . "Send down Thy Truth" . . . E. R. Sill.  
Tune, "Venice."  
*Led by the Choir.*

**The Audience are invited to join,**

Send down thy truth, O God !  
Too long the shadows frown,  
Too long the darkened way we've  
trod :  
Thy truth, O Lord, send down !

Send down Thy love, Thy life,  
Our lesser lives to crown,  
And cleanse them of their hate and  
strife :  
Thy living love send down !

Thy truth, O Lord, send down !      Thy living love send down !

Send down thy peace, O Lord !  
Earth's bitter voices drown  
In one deep ocean of accord :  
Thy peace, O God, send down !

## CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS.

## CORRESPONDENCE AND GREETINGS.

**Duet**      "O Lovely Peace"      *Handel*  
                   (From "Judas Maccabæus")

Miss HILDA and Miss MURIEL FOSTER.

O lovely Peace, with plenty crown'd,  
Come spread thy blessings all around,  
Let fleecy flocks the hills adorn,  
And valleys smile with wavy corn,  
Let the shrill trumpet cease, nor other sound  
But Nature's songsters wake the cheerful morn.

### Resolution :—

"That the International Council of Women do take steps in every country to further and advance, by every means in their power, the movement towards International Arbitration."

Moved by Baroness BERTHA von SUTTNER (Austria).

**Song . . . . . “The Everlasting Day R. S. Wellsbourne.  
Music by F. Bevan.**

Miss ELLA WALKER.

I stood on a lofty mountain  
And gazed over land and sea,  
And thought of life's wondrous foun-  
tain,  
Its source, and Eternity.

I thought of God's mighty secrets,  
And how His Myst'ries blend,  
The past without beginning,  
A future without end.

I look'd on the boundless splendour  
 Till its marvels dimm'd my sight,  
 Then slept in a calm amazement,  
 And dream'd with a strange de-  
 light ;  
 I dream'd of a Heav'ly City  
 Where soul with soul will blend,  
 Where time has no beginning,  
 Where bliss will never end.

The dream was a revelation,  
 A vision of vanquish'd strife,  
 A sweet imagination  
 Of a pure and hallow'd life ;  
 A vision of God's great bounty,  
 When sin shall have passed away,  
 Of souls from sleep awaking  
 To everlasting day.

Resolution seconded by Mme. SELENKA (Germany).

Resolution supported by Mrs MAY WRIGHT SEWALL (U.S.A.).

Song

Miss ESTHER PALLISER.

Resolution supported by—

Mme. CHELIGA (France).

Mme. DE WARZKLEWITZ VON SCHILFGAARDE (Holland).

Miss ELLEN ROBINSON (England).

Sacred Song “O God, the Darkness roll Away” Wm. Gaskell.  
 Tune “Bedford.”

*Led by the Choir.*

The Audience are invited to join.

O God ! the darkness roll away  
 Which clouds the human soul,  
 And let Thy bright and holy day  
 Speed onward to its goal !

How long shall glory still be found  
 In scenes of cruel strife,  
 Where misery walks, a giant crowned,  
 Crushing the flowers of life ?

Let every hateful passion die  
 Which makes of brethren foes,  
 And war no longer raise its cry  
 To mar the world's repose.

O hush, great God, the sounds of war,  
 And make thy children feel  
 That he, with Thee, is nobler far  
 Who toils for human weal ;—

Let faith, and hope, and charity,  
 Go forth through all the earth ;  
 And man in holy friendship be  
 True to his heavenly birth.

Chorus “How Lovely are the Messengers” Mendelssohn.  
 (“St Paul”)

THE CHOIR.

“How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace ! To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings.”

Short Address . . . . . The ARCHBISHOP OF ST PAUL (U.S.A.).

Song . . . . . "So shall the Lute and Harp" . . . . . *Handel.*  
(From "Judas Maccabaeus")  
Miss ESTHER PALLISER.

VOTE OF THANKS TO SPEAKERS AND ARTISTES.

Proposed by the EARL OF ABERDEEN.

Seconded by the Rev. H. R. HAWEIS, M.A.

Sacred Song . . . . . "The Age of Gold" . . . . . *M. J. Savage.*  
Tune—"The Church's one Foundation."

*Led by the Choir.*

The Audience are invited to join.

The God that to the fathers	'Twas but far off, in vision,
Revealed His holy will	The fathers' eyes could see
Has not the world forsaken ;	The glory of the kingdom,—
He's with the children still.	The better time to be.
Then envy not the twilight	To-day we see fulfilling
That glimmered on their way ;	The dreams they dreamt of old ;
Look up, and see the dawning	While nearer, ever nearer,
That broadens into day.	Rolls on the age of gold !

With trust in God's free spirit,—
The ever broadening ray
Of truth that shines to guide us
Along our forward way,—
Let us to-day be faithful,
As were the brave of old,
Till we, their work completing,
Bring in the age of gold !

In opening the proceedings, the President said : To-night the International Council of Women is invited to enter on a new phase in its existence, and it appears to be one which obtains the hearty consent of all its members.

Up to now it has never been identified with any one movement, for by its Constitution it cannot further one propaganda at the expense of another.

But two years ago the National Council of Women of Canada, closely followed by the National Council of Women of the United States, sent in a resolution which, if passed to-night, will pledge our Council to further the movement for International Arbitration in all countries by all means in its power. That resolution has been submitted to each of our federated National Councils,

and, as I understand, comes now before us with their unanimous consent, this great movement having in their opinion passed beyond the stage of controversy.

And surely, if any section of humanity has cause to be interested in the prevention of war, that section is womenkind. When we speak of the terrors of war, our thoughts may first travel to the battlefield, and to its ghastly array of dead and wounded ; but it is not there, after all, where the greatest suffering is inflicted by war. It is in the wider field of devastated homes and maimed lives, and it is the women who have had to bear the brunt of this suffering.

In bygone days women have been the first to urge husbands and brothers and sons to give themselves for their country, counting such sacrifice the truest heroism. They could do nothing to avert the scourge of war—they could but stay at home, and pray and watch and provide comforts for the sick and wounded.

But it is not so now. A brighter day has dawned for us. We women of this day are learning a new kind of patriotism—we are learning to covet for our countries that they shall emulate one another as to which can do the most for the good of the world, and as to which can do the most to maintain the peace of the world. Our ambition for our soldier sons is that their existence and their efficiency should effectually maintain this peace until ultimately the need for their presence may have disappeared.

The voice of women from all over the world has made itself heard in welcoming and supporting the Peace Conference now sitting at the Hague ; and I am glad to think that we shall have the opportunity of hearing to-night some of the ladies who organised that great petition sent in by the women.

And may we not confidently believe that the active participation of this International Council of Women with the movement for International Arbitration will largely quicken the good work ?

We know how much has been accomplished by sundry Congresses and Conventions amongst learned and scientific and philanthropic men and women on either side of the water, and how these have served to promote that understanding of one another which lies at the basis of all good fellowship ; and now that an organised movement is to exist amongst all civilised nations amongst its women workers, which will bring their

representatives face to face from time to time, must we not confidently believe that they will join hands to use all their influence to stop the mere possibility of the scientific massacres which must now be the consequence of international hostilities.

Women have done much to keep alive the spirit of war in the past by urging on a narrow patriotism, by exalting their own country at the expense of others, and by inciting their children to make good that patriotism by force of arms.

Now bound together in national and international ties by the "Golden Rule," we shall glory in a newer and fuller and more beautiful patriotism, which lacks nothing of the force and the individuality of the old, but which transforms it, and throws a halo of divinity around it, whilst giving it at the same time a world-wide field for the exercise of its new-found power.

The President then read several letters of greeting which had been received. The first, which follows, was from the women of Italy, forwarding a copy of a resolution in favour of International Arbitration :—

MILAN, 12th Juin 1899.

CHÈRE MADAME,—La grande manifestation qui aura lieu à Londres pour *la Paix et l'Arbitrage*, trouve aussi une réponse très vive chez les femmes Italiennes. Le "Congrès International des Femmes" qui a le mérite d'avoir appelé dans la capitale de l'Angleterre les femmes les plus distinguées, a couronné son œuvre en fixant un "meeting" pour *la Paix et l'Arbitrage*. Que l'idée puisse être bien comprise par toutes les femmes en tous les pays et un grand pas sur la voie de la civilisation serait fait.

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre la "résolution" et l'adresse de sympathie envoyées par les femmes Italiennes à la Haye et notre Comité Central renouvelle ces voeux en vous priant de les communiquer à l'honorable Présidence du "meeting."

Agrée chère madame, nos cordiales salutations.

Di PAULINE SCHIFF.

TEMA MELANY SCODNIK.

COMTESSE SAVINA CASANOVA.

DUCHESSE LITTA VISCONTI ARESE.

ANNETTA BANFI MARRUCHELLI.

ELISA MORETTI COMTESSE DE SPOLEINBERGE.

GIANNINA UGATTI ROY.

GIUSEPPINA MERRADRI.

ANNINA OSIO.

À l'adresse de l'honorable Présidence du meeting pour la Paix et l'Arbitrage.

Risoluzioni formulate dal Comitato Centrale Italiano da mandarsi alla Conferenza Internazionale per il Disarmo e la Pace che avrà luogo all'Aja il 18 maggio 1899:—

Riconoscendo sempre più che l'energia della difesa non debba estrinsecarsi nella moderna società col primitivo mezzo della uccisione del simile, noi, donne italiane, fedeli agli umani principi di Alberigo Gentili, del Filangeri, del Romagnosi e del Beccaria, confermiamo essere l'*Arbitrato* e il principio della *Pace* il mezzo dettato della ragione, dal sentimento e dall'utilità sociale per comporre gli inevitabili dissensi dall'attrito degli interessi.

Considerando altresì che la dignità e il valore dell'elemento femminile potrà emergere soltanto in condizioni basate sul progredito sviluppo della razionalità e dell'armonia affettiva sociale.

Esprimiamo un voto di solidarietà colle donne delle altre nazioni, riunendoci a loro in questa manifestazione internazionale simultanea e universale per la *Pace* e l'*Arbitrato*, all'occasione della Conferenza Internazionale all'Aja.

Testo del telegramma che sarà spedito all'indirizzo *Vredescomité Hague*.

“D'accord avec la *Ligue des femmes pour le Désarmement International* de Paris, nous vous transmettons les voeux exprimés par les représentants de toutes les classes de la Société en faveur du Désarmement et de la Paix universelle, que nous vous prions de soumettre à la Conférence de la Haye.”

IL COMITATO CENTRALE, Milano.

DSSA. PAOLINA SCHIFF—IRMA MELANY SCODNIK, Milano.

CONTESSA SAVINA CASANOVA, Milano.

DUCHESSA LITTA VISCONTI ARESE NATA PERRY, Milano.

ANNETTA BANFI MAZZUCHELLI, Milano.

ELISA MORETTI CONTESSA DI SPILIMBERGO, Milano.

GIANNINA UGATTI ROY, Milano.

GIUSEPPINA MEZZADRI, Milano.

AMINA OSIO, Milano.

COMITATO DELLE SIGNORE PER LA PACE E L'ARBITRATO,  
Palermo.

SOCIETA PER LA PACE - SEZIONE FEMMINILE - EMILIA  
 MARIANI TOMMASINA GUIDI, Torino.  
 SOTTO-COMITATO PER LA PACE, Roma.  
 CONTESSA ANTONINA PUTTE CARCANO, Firenze.  
 CONTESSA ANTONINA PUTTE CARCANO, Napoli.  
 CAMILLA BELLISOMI MANZONI, Venezia.  
 PROFESSA. LINITA BERETTA, Genova.  
 ARGENTINA BONETTI ALTOBELLi, Bologna.  
 STEPHANIA OMBONI, Padova.  
 VIRGINIA OLPER MONIS, Padova.  
 CAMILLA PECILE KECHLER, Udine.  
 RINA PIERANGELI FACCIO, Portocibitanova (Marche).  
 SOTTO-COMITATO LINDA MAHSATIS, Pavia.  
 GUGLIELMINA RONCONI, Vercelli.  
 IDA GOTTARDI, Treviso.  
 CAROLINA MOR PALOSCHI, Abbiategrasso.  
 MARIA VENCO, Montebello.  
 ARMIDA BASSELLI, } Gruppo—Macerata Feltria.  
 CLETIA ANTINI CLARI, }  
 PROFSA. LAURA PEZZI, DIRETTRICE DELLE SCUOLE FEM-  
 MINILE, Fano (Marche).  
 ELISA PADOA PADOA, Sondrio.  
 SOTTO-COMITATO—ELISA MARABINA, Imola.  
 IDA LOMBArd, Pisa.  
 GRUPPO DI SIGNORE, REPPRESENTATO DA PAOLINA  
 ANDREUZZI—ROSSIFU ANTONIO, Navarona (Friuli).  
 BORGATE SUB, Lago Maggiore.

The Women's Liberal Federation also sent greetings, Mrs Broadley Reid briefly stating that at a recent meeting of the Council representing the Liberal Women of England it was decided to send to the Peace Conference at the Hague a message identical with that sent by other bodies.

Frédéric Passy, the veteran peace leader of France, also wrote, the following being an extract from his letter:—

**EXTRAIT D'UNE LETTRE DE FRÉDÉRIC PASSY A  
 UN CHER COLLEGUE ET AMI.**

Je ne répéterai point combien est sacrée à mes yeux cette cause de la paix, à laquelle se rattachent tous les progrès de

bien-être, de science, de liberté et de moralité, comme à la guerre de qui ils découlent, se rattachent tous les vices, toutes les barbaries, toutes les misères et toutes les tyrannies :—Guerre, peste et famine, trinité maudite, comme le dit bien l'inscription qui se lit sur la façade du bâtiment appelé la Maison du Roi, en face l'Hôtel de Ville à Bruxelles.

Il y a plus d'un demi-siècle que, pour la première fois, j'ai commencé à indiquer mes sentiments à cet égard. Il y a près de 45 ans que j'ai montré que la plupart des maux qui affligen l'humanité sont des maux artificiels ; et que, si nous voulions bien ne plus nous blesser et nous ruiner nous-mêmes, et employer à combattre les maux naturels une partie au moins des forces que nous employons à nous accabler de calamités factices, la terre serait pour nous un paradis, au lieu d'être l'enfer qu'elle est encore.

Il y a plus de 30 ans—c'était au printemps de 1867—lorsqu'à ma voix et à celle de deux ou trois autres, s'est fait le réveil d'opinion qui a arrêté la guerre prête à éclater, que la principale tâche de ma vie est la propagation de ces idées ; que par la plume et par la parole, dans les milieux populaires et dans les milieux officiels, je prêche l'anathème à la guerre ; et que quelques uns, comme vous, mon cher ami, comme Hodgson-Pratt, comme Ducommun, Moncta, le général Türr et la baronne von Suttner, veulent bien me considérer comme l'un des plus vaillants, ou tout au moins des plus dévoués champions de la sainte croisade.

Tout cela est connu de ceux qui sont au courant de notre grande lutte pacifique et pacificatrice. Et, sans être hors de propos dans la belle manifestation de mardi, n'a avec elle qu'une relation indirecte. Ce qui s'y rapporte davantage, et ce que, si j'avais pu y prendre part, j'aurais demandé la permission de rappeler, c'est que, d'une part, lorsque j'ai rédigé, en 1867, les premiers statuts de La Ligue Internationale et permanente de la Paix, j'ai eu soin, comme le remarquait l'un de mes plus généreux collaborateurs et soutiens, Arlès Dufour, d'en ouvrir, par une disposition hardie à cette époque, la porte aux femmes, sur un pied d'égalité complète avec les hommes ; c'est, d'autre part, que je n'ai jamais cessé dans mes discours et dans mes écrits, de faire particulièrement appel aux femmes, de m'attrister, de m'indigner parfois, de leur silence, de leur résignation, de leur hésitation à nous suivre, à nous encourager, à nous exciter ou à nous devancer. C'est que j'ai toujours dit, avec mon illustre maître Jules Simon, que la guerre à la guerre était, avant tout,

l'affaire des femmes et que c'était par des mains féminines que devaient être désarmées les mains masculines.

“ Femmes, pourquoi vous taisez-vous quand il s'agit de paix ou de guerre ? C'est là proprement votre domaine. Mères ! défendez le sang de vos fils ! ”

Combien de fois j'ai répété ce cri admirable de Jules Simon, dans son mémorable article sur le septennat de la paix ; et combien de fois j'ai gémi de ne le voir entendu que par un trop petit nombre de celles qui auraient dû y répondre, qui, pour mieux dire, auraient dû nous éviter la peine de la pousser !

Mais, Dieu merci ! les choses ont changé et le temps a marché. Les femmes se sont levées à la fin, et dans tous les pays, dans toutes les langues et sous tous les régimes, elles ont fait entendre leurs réclamations. Elles se sont rappelées qu'elles sont, comme l'avait remarqué Aristote, la moitié du genre humain, et, comme elles l'apprennent tous les jours à leurs dépens, que ce sont elles qui font les hommes, et qu'elles ont bien le droit de défendre contre le canon cette chair de leurs fils, qui est leur propre chair.

Et voilà pourquoi, mon cher ami, nous devons espérer, et, sans nous payer encore d'illusions, considérer notre victoire comme moins douteuse et moins lointaine.

Les souverains, qui ne devaient jamais, disait-on, entendre les appels que nous adressions à leur sagesse et à leur prudence, non seulement les ont entendus, mais les répètent et se font honneur de s'inspirer de nos sentiments. Les femmes, qui, victimes résignées, ne devaient jamais faire entendre une plainte et tenter un effort pour soustraire à la boucherie humaine le troupeau sans cesse renouvelé au prix de leur sang et de leurs larmes, se lèvent, et, d'un élan unanime signifient au monstre qu'il a trop long-temps prolongé son règne abominable et que la civilisation a mieux à faire avec du fer et des hommes, que des canons et des cadavres.

Réjouissons-nous donc ! Et, si nous sommes trop vieux (quelques uns comme moi du moins) pour voir le jour bénit où le monde ne sera plus qu'un grand atelier, un grand marché et une grande famille : où, suivant la parole d'un de vos poètes, tout homme, sur la surface de la terre, sera pour tout homme un frère, disons-nous, pour nous consoler de ce que nous avons vu et ne pas trop envier ce que nous ne verrons pas, que les temps sont proches ; que les signes qui les annoncent se multiplient. Et, de ce qui reste encore de lumière à nos yeux fatigués, regardons

vers l'aurore, où commencent à poindre quelques lueurs de l'aube blanchissante, qui bientôt sera la pleine lumière !

“Le jour monte, écrivait, il y a trente ans, un de nos plus vaillants et éminents auxiliaires, un prêtre vraiment chrétien, le Père Gratry, dans ses admirables *Méditations sur la paix*, le jour monte ; il n'y aura bientôt plus assez d'ombre pour les tyrans.”

Oui, le jour monte. Oui, grâce à l'implacable publicité de la presse et de la tribune, rien ne peut plus être caché. Les horreurs du champ de bataille, les douleurs de l'hôpital et de l'ambulance, les misères des familles privées de leurs soutiens, les atrocités des guerres coloniales, et les hontes de cette morale de convention que nous nous sommes faites à l'égard des races que nous appelons sauvages, l'affaiblissement et la démoralisation de nos races dites supérieures par les saignées qu'elles s'imposent et par les habitudes de barbarie auxquelles elles se condamnent : tout cela, aujourd'hui, est visible à tous les yeux, compris de toutes les intelligences, senti de tous les coeurs capables de sentir quelque chose. Les hommes doués de quelque humanité et de quelque prévoyance dénoncent le danger. Les femmes se soulèvent contre le crime dont elles refusent de faire plus longtemps les frais. Les peuples, unis, même malgré eux, par l'impérieuse nécessité qui les fait les obligés et les serviteurs les uns des autres, se mêlent et se lient par les mailles de plus en plus serrées d'un inextricable réseau. Ou la guerre sera désavouée et vaincue ; ou nous sombrerons dans un dernier cataclysme, avec tout ce qui faisait notre orgueil et notre espoir !

Grâce à Dieu, grâce à la levée en masse des forces féminines, c'est la concorde, c'est la Paix, c'est l'Amour qui aurait le dernier mot !

Cardinal Vaughan wrote :—

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,  
WESTMINSTER, S.W., June 20th, 1899.

DEAR LADY ABERDEEN,—I am unable to attend your meeting on the 27th inst., but to show how sincerely your movement has the sympathy of the Catholic Church in England, Ireland and the United States, I send you the following appeal signed by the three American, Irish and English Cardinals.

Though issued three years ago, it is perfectly relevant to the present occasion, and I give it to you as such.—Yours faithfully,

HERBERT CARDINAL VAUGHAN.

## A TRIBUNAL OF ARBITRATION.

We, the undersigned Cardinals, representatives of the Prince of Peace, and of the Catholic Church in our respective countries, invite all who hear our voice to co-operate in the formation of a public opinion which shall demand the establishment of a permanent Tribunal of Arbitration, as a rational substitute among the English-speaking races for a resort to the bloody arbitrament of war.

We are well aware that such a project is beset with practical difficulties. We believe that they will not prove to be insuperable if the desire to overcome them be genuine and general. Such a court existed for centuries, when the nations of Christendom were united in one faith. And have we not seen nations appeal to that same court for its judgment in our own day?

The establishment of a permanent tribunal, composed, may be, of trusted representatives of each Sovereign nation, with power to nominate judges and umpires according to the nature of the differences that arise, and a common acceptance of general principles defining and limiting the jurisdiction and subject matter of such a tribunal, would create new guarantees for peace that could not fail to influence the whole of Christendom. Such an International Court of Arbitration would form a second line of defence, to be called into requisition only after the ordinary resources of diplomacy had been exhausted. It would at least postpone the outbreak of hostilities until reason and common sense had formally pronounced their last word.

This is a matter of which the constitution and procedure must be settled by Governments. But as Governments are becoming more identified with the aspirations, and moulded by the desires of the people, an appeal in the first instance must be addressed to the people.

We do not hesitate, on our part, to lift up our united voice, and to proclaim to all who are accustomed to hearken to our counsels that it is a sign of divine influence at work in their midst, when "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they be exercised any more in war" (Isaiah ii. 9), for it was written of a future time, "Come ye and behold the work of the Lord, what wonders He hath done upon the earth, making wars to cease even to the end of the earth" (Ps. xlv. 9).

Others may base their appeal upon motives which touch your worldly interests, your prosperity, your world-wide influence and

authority in the affairs of men. The Catholic Church recognises the legitimate force of such motives in the natural order, and blesses whatever tends to the real progress and elevation of the race. But our main ground of appeal rests upon the known character and will of the Prince of Peace, the living founder, the Divine Head of Christendom. It was He who declared that love of the brotherhood is a second commandment, like unto the first. It was He who announced to the people the praise and reward of those who seek after peace and pursue it. "Blessed," said He, "are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God" (Matt. v. 9). We therefore earnestly invite all to unite with us in pressing their convictions and desires upon their respective Governments by means of petitions and such other measures as are Constitutional.

J. CARDINAL GIBBONS, Archbishop of Baltimore.  
 MICHAEL CARDINAL LOGUE, Archbishop of Armagh,  
 Primate of all Ireland.  
 HERBERT CARDINAL VAUGHAN, Archbishop of  
 Westminster.

Archbishop Ireland of St Paul (United States), whose engagements prevented him from remaining the whole evening, then addressed the meeting. He said it was worthy of women to work for such a noble purpose. In such a cause woman could and would do more than man. Men had to engage themselves in the hard things of life. They had not time, and may be they had not the tenderness of mind and heart which would induce them to work for religion and morality with those inspiring efforts which women brought into such movements. It seemed difficult to put an end to war, since war had had such influence in all past history. But let them work on public opinion in all countries, and they would, with God's blessing, succeed. War was, to say the best of it, a killing of man; war before the battle was a massing together of all the forces of a nation to prepare engines of power to kill men, applying science and art to the killing of men. During the battle, war was the aiming of death-blows upon man, the ground drinking up human blood. And after the battle, what was war? It was the maimed and the wounded — a real shock of grief that nothing could diminish sent throughout a thousand homes. The newspapers would cry out "Victory" — "An easy victory." They would perhaps sing out "Only one killed," but some poor

mother beneath some poor roof would say, "Ah, but that was my son." Fortunately the time had gone by when some man in power, seated upon a throne, could launch his whole people into the battlefield simply to satisfy some whim or ambition of his own. Nowadays, the destinies of nations were held in the hands of the people, and the people would hesitate long before they demanded war. It was hard for humanity that, 2000 years after the angels had come announcing "Peace on earth," there should still be wars and nation rising against nation. What for? To kill men, as if they were deciding justice. Let meetings be held in every land beneath the sun, let men speak out and say that they are the patriots of the patriots whose aim is to seek justice and to spare the lives of their countrymen. They wanted justice. They held justice higher than the battlefield, and it was because they sought justice that they sought some other means than war to decide what justice was. Let then their efforts be persevering. Let them be strong. They prayed that the example given in that great city of London might go forth over the whole world, and find imitators. They prayed that such meetings might be held until the people of all nations would be so aroused that a tribunal of arbitration would be established that would speak in the name of justice, no longer in the name of brute force, and that would honour each nation and would bring upon the whole world that reign of peace of the establishment of which the Son of God came down from the skies upon earth.

The President at this point said she very much regretted to tell the meeting that the lady whom so many present had come specially to see and hear had been prevented from coming by illness. The Baroness Bertha von Suttner had been very unwell during the last few days. She hoped to the very last hour to be able to attend, but her medical advisers were so imperative that she should not undertake the journey that at last she was compelled to give up her engagement, much to her regret. She had sent a message by M. Felix Moscheles, President of the Society of Peace and Arbitration, which she would ask him to deliver, and Mrs Byles had been kind enough to undertake to read part of the address which the baroness was prepared to make in moving the resolution.

**M. Felix Moscheles** said that great and noble worker in the cause of the people, Baroness von Suttner, as they had heard from the lips of Lady Aberdeen, could not come to England. He had

been in daily communication with her on the subject, and he regretted to say that the hopes entertained up to the last had been deceived. She desired him to express her deep sense of regret and of grievous disappointment at not being able to appear on the platform. Nothing short of the peremptory orders of her doctor, he need not assure them, had prevented her from being present. He had been with her for about a month at the Hague, and his impression was that overwork and constant attention of mind had brought about the feverish attack from which she was suffering. If her pulse beat higher than it should, and the doctor said so, it would be beating higher, though he trusted not injuriously so, at that hour when her thoughts reverted to that great gathering and she felt in warm sympathy with the friends and colleagues who had come from all parts of the globe. Of one thing they could all be sure—as long as the pulses of Baroness von Suttner throbbed she would work for the realisation of her ideals ; she would work for that good cause, the triumph of which it was her glorious ambition to secure.

The President.—May I send, in your name, a message of regret and concern to Baroness von Suttner? “Applause.”

Mrs Byles then read Baroness von Suttner's address as follows :—

MY LADY PRESIDENT, while in this Congress of the International Council of Women the name “Arbitration” has been chosen as the opening subject of its meetings, another Congress is sitting, as you well know, which has been summoned by a powerful monarch, and where all governments are represented, a Congress whose task it is to conduct this same question—not only as has been done hitherto, and as we might do here, towards a theoretical, but towards a practical solution.

I have come from the place where that Conference is being held. You will perceive, therefore, that I prefer, instead of general considerations, to begin with a few statements as to what is actually being done at the Hague at this momentous juncture.

But let me first make a remark, which is suggested to me by the double fact that I am standing on English soil and addressing a meeting of women. Many people say (I heard it repeated only yesterday) “Women ought not to mix in politics ; the problem of peace and war is beyond the sphere of feminine comprehension.” Well, I have just left a country which is governed by a woman, and have come into another country also governed by a woman. The one—who is the youngest amongst European sovereigns—is

privileged to begin her reign with an event which, for political importance, surpasses all preceding historical events ; and the other—the first lady of this land and the senior of the monarchs in Europe—is possibly destined to have the honour of crowning her long and wise reign by putting her royal seal to a document (drawn up at the Hague) which is to open the era of international justice. I think this speaks volumes for the right of our sex to be interested in political questions.

Amongst the schemes for arbitration that have been presented at the Hague, the most far-reaching one was, as most of us know, the plan which Sir Julian Pauncefote, the plenipotentiary of Her Majesty's Government, has laid on the table. Other plans have been brought forward by the Russians and by the Americans, and the section for arbitration is endeavouring to bring the different proposals into harmony. The present position of affairs at the conference is doubly important, because the representatives of some powers have maintained a position of complete reserve, not to say antagonism, concerning the arbitration question, and the final resolutions will depend on the instructions to be given by the different Governments to their delegates. During the next two weeks which precede the last full session the question will be settled—not so much in the debates of the commissions as in the minds and hearts of the potentates—the question whether the magnanimous wishes of the Russian Emperor and the trembling hopes of mankind shall be fulfilled or frustrated. The intrinsic value of arbitration, the philosophical arguments in favour or against the institution of a tribunal will not be primary considerations, what is going to be decided will depend on personal inclinations and political considerations, on the opinions and the moods of the leading persons. Therefore, it would appear to be the urgent duty of the adherents of the peace cause and of those who possess some influence, to exercise that influence in order to help, within the fifteen days remaining, to bring about a happy solution of the vital questions under discussion.

During my stay at the Hague, I have heard a series of lectures, which opened to me and to many others a new horizon. They showed the war of the future as it must of necessity develop. The lecturer, Jean de Bloch, besides being a wealthy banker, is a thorough scientist. His great book, from which the data of his lectures were taken, is the result of eight years' conscientious study.

He maintains that the changes which have taken place in the mechanism of war, and in all other departments of social life, will

also produce so complete a change in the character of the next universal war, that it is quite impossible to form any judgment about it by inferences drawn from the experiences of former struggles.

Ten years ago, when I published an appeal with a view to creating the Austrian Peace Society, I wrote: "Through the new instruments of destruction, through the growth of the armed forces, war has been changed into a thing that ought to be described by another name, because through the ever-growing competition in warlike preparations, it has completely changed since the time when we last had any experience of it" If, to illustrate my meaning, you keep on warming a bath until the water boils, so that the person who steps, or rather falls into the tub is scalded to death, would you still call this a "bath"? But of what use are such reflections and prophecies? People do not listen to the first and laugh at the second. But now, Bloch's action has brought a similar idea to light; the god of war, who has silently grown into a race-devouring Moloch, has been brought before the tribunal of the awakened conscience of the world; he is summoned to defend himself, or, if he fails to do so, to accept the death-warrant which sooner or later must be his lot.

I must skip the chapters in Bloch's work, "Continental War" and "Naval War." Let me only mention that, owing to the tremendous force of the new weapons, and the ways adopted to use them, all officers of the land army will inevitably be killed, and that, according to the calculation of the French General Langlois, and the Prussian General Müller, the future battle between the Double and the Triple Alliance would lead, if all the guns were put into action, to the destruction of 41 millions of men, that is to the slaughter of eight times as many troops as could cover the battlefield. As to the naval combats, Bloch demonstrates how impossible it would be to decide which of the belligerents had gained the victory.

Let us consider the economical aspect of the question as shown by Bloch.

On the very first day when the order for mobilisation was issued, and with the first beginning of hostilities, the nations engaged would drift to economic destruction. The suspension of all industrial life, of all work and business, the ruin of all capital, universal famine; such are the mathematically certain results of the coming "great war."

Under such circumstances, it is war and no longer peace

which deserves the name "Utopia." The President of the Conference at the Hague, Monsieur de Staal, in speaking to me of M. de Bloch, endorsed the opinion of this "most interesting man," as he expressed himself. He is right, he added, "War is gradually becoming a Utopia."

Utopia means "impossible dream." Well, thank God, the methods of wholesale destruction leading to universal disaster are gradually becoming impossibilities; while the old dreams be, it cannot bring forth complete and perfect solutions of the great problems before the delegates. Institutions that are many thousand years old cannot be changed by the work possible in a session of eight weeks. For the community of peace-workers enough work will remain. The women who, from all parts of the world, have come to this Congress, will, I feel sure, zealously and unanimously join in the work for peace, for they are the courageous representatives of right, freedom and ethical progress. But I wish that the words which are spoken in this hall may reach our sisters outside, and that all mothers and wives—be they feminists or not, be they members of peace societies or not—may be roused to the duty of the present time.

It is a solemn time. It is not only the transition of one century to another, it is the transition of one conception of the world, of one civilisation, to another. It is the moment when the old order, weighed down under the growth of its inherited errors and crimes, has been brought to the verge of destruction; but when, through the awakening self-consciousness of human society, salvation may be achieved and the impending danger averted. It is a work of salvation to which the delegates at the Hague have been called. To make this work a success, ten or fifteen days are still left to them. But not only to them—to all peoples the near future of the reign of right, of human happiness and human dignity are slowly becoming true.

Arbitration and disarmament? It is superfluous to discuss the practicability, the benefits and the difficulties of these measures. It is enough to have demonstrated the impossibility of war as a means of settling national disputes—a double suicide can settle nothing at all—for finally other means *must be* established, a judicial system will grow up and the fever of armaments will, without further doctoring, fall from its present heat of 80 to zero.

"But," they say, "Bloch is no soldier, no expert; his conclusions are based on fallacies." With such phrases the friends

of militarism console themselves. "Only sophisms," said Professor Zorn to me the other day, talking of Bloch's lectures. "Military men affirm that future wars will be much less bloody than the wars of the past" . . . "But the new weapons," I remonstrated, "forty times more murderous than the old ones?" "Oh, only very few shots hit the mark."

Sophisms! Such can be made with abstractions and arguments, but not with figures and with physical laws. What Bloch says is not a compound of simple speculation and rhetoric which might be refuted by opposing speculation and rhetorics; it is a bundle of facts that can be verified; it is a collection of conclusions which experts of high rank—the Generals Von der Goltz, Hässeler, Jansen—have laid down in their writings where they have been overlooked by the public. Bloch does not say, "You *ought* not to make war." He says, "You *cannot* make war;" for the immeasurable disturbance of all economic conditions will surely produce catastrophes in industry and in the means of intercourse, will loosen all ties of order, and will bring forth untold misery not only to the armed men in the field, but also to the women, children and old men left at home. Home? The sweet and holy word will lose all its meaning when the next fierce war breaks out. Abodes of despair are no longer "homes."

No State up till now has considered it a duty to put before us what must follow on an explosion of war in the future. It has not been done, because the Governments are well aware that untold misery and famines would follow, and that a sober description, based on figures and on dry statistics, would show war as a mad Utopia—as a gigantic crime.

Well, and this is the task of the moment to which the energies of every philanthropist should be directed. *Such statistics must be demanded.* The facts and figures must be faced. The peace movement can add a new form to its work and its propaganda. The demand must be peremptorily raised that the *scientific truth* on the war question should be brought to the knowledge of the public—that regular studies and investigations should be made.

The result of such study, which, of course, would mostly fall to the task of military men, must be that amongst all open-minded soldiers the conviction would be roused that war has become a kind of double suicide, and that some other means must be devised for settling international conflicts; and then the principle in the name of which we are assembled to-night in Queen's Hall

would find its most earnest defenders among the members of the general staff.

Whatever the issue of the Conference at the Hague may be, it will impose the great duty of rescuing the world from the horrors of the unchecked war system. And this near future must be filled with energetic, active, practical labour.

When lately somebody said to Czar Nicholas, "With your noble manifesto your Majesty will have given the world at least a beautiful hope," the young Emperor, with an impatient shrug of the shoulders, answered, "Hope, hope . . . poor humanity has long enough been deceived with this word ; this is the time for realisation." So let us say, "Enough of theories and wishes ; this is the time for action."

**Mrs Byles**, on behalf of Baroness von Suttner, then moved the following resolution :—

"That the International Council of Women do take steps in every country to further and advance, by every means in their power, the movement towards International Arbitration."

**Frau Selenka** (Germany) said she seconded the resolution with the deep conviction that if it is accepted and carried out resolutely, immense good will come out of it for the sacred cause which it is to support. I am, perhaps, the person in this whole audience best authorised to prophesy this, because I have had the privilege and the joy of having passed through my hands the testimonies of a great international demonstration of women for the Peace Conference just now, and have been witness of the strong impression which they have produced on the members of the Conference.

It has, in fact, been the first truly international public act among women, and their first resolute entering into the domain of international politics.

At the same time it has given a striking proof of the force and energy of women's international organisation, as well as of individual activity and devotion in the service of a *great* idea of *Progress*.

Full particulars in detail will, of course, be found in the records of the proceedings at the Hague and elsewhere, and a detailed report is coming out in print. But I may say here that the total number of simultaneous meetings held in eighteen countries on almost one and the same day—the 15th of May—amounts to 562. The number of women standing up personally for Peace in

virtually one and the same hour round the world is at least 200,000; and the number of women represented by these will very nearly reach 3 millions. This result is the more remarkable as the whole movement, though outlined and aimed at as early as September last year, was carried out in the course of only about seven weeks, and with the most simple means, not even a printed sheet having been sent out.

I can report 260 meetings in England, 74 meetings in 21 States in America, 20 meetings in Italy, 20 in Sweden, whilst successful gatherings have been held in Germany, Russia, Austria, Spain, Servia, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, and last, not least, a meeting in Tokio, Japan, of over 2000 women, under the presidency of a princess of the Imperial House.

All these meetings had exchanged letters of sympathy expressing the unanimous determination of women to maintain peace. They have passed resolutions in which unanimously the principle of arbitration has stood in front as fundamental to every progress that can be attained in those problems with which the Conference at the Hague has to deal.

The documents containing these resolutions, together with hundreds of telegrams stating their acceptance at the meetings in all parts of the world, forming an imposing collection, I had the privilege to deliver to the President of the Conference, Baron de Staal, in a private audience of half an hour, in which His Excellency expressed his confidence that the women would help to carry the cause.

I have to state that this is the only message to the Conference that had been thus officially sent to and accepted by the Conference through the medium of the President himself.

We have received a direct acknowledgment in the name of the Conference from the President himself, as the following letter shows:—

LA HAYE, le 19 Juin.

MADAME,—J'ai eu l'honneur de recevoir d'entre vos mains une adresse de la part des femmes de tous les pays civilisés dans laquelle elles expriment leur profond dévouement à la cause sacrée de la Paix.

C'est au nom de la Conférence Internationale de la Paix, que je vous prie, madame, d'accepter ses sincères remerciements de ces nombreux témoignages de sympathie pour son œuvre, parmi

lesquels entre autres les beaux vers de la gracieuse Poète Royale Carmen Sylva ont été spécialement remarqués.

À Madame M. K. SELENKA,  
de Munich.

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA CONFÉRENCE  
INTERNATIONALE DE LA PAIX.

It has been proved now that woman's voice can be made to resound with emphasis and strength all around the world, and to be heard with regard. It is a sign that it must not be silenced again.

May this first international political act of women be of good augur for the future of women's influence in national and international politics.

May they always, as they are to-day, be the champions for those causes which are fraught with truer ethics and with true progress; may they embody, in their approaching political life, the consciences of the nations.

I have the honour to second the resolution.

**EDITOR'S NOTE.**—*For fuller details regarding this remarkable movement we would refer our readers to the detailed report, which can be obtained from Frau Selenka of Leopoldstrasse, Munich, Germany.*

Mrs May Wright Sewall (Vice-President) said: Lady Aberdeen, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is not surprising that I should support with enthusiasm the resolution that has been proposed here to-night. In one or another form the work for social peace and international arbitration has been a part of council work in the United States since the organisation of our Council in 1888. The International Peace Union, having its headquarters and its largest membership in the United States, was fourth of the eighteen National Organisations of Women now included within our Council to join the Council and to subscribe to the Council idea. The records of the National Council of the United States show that from the first resolutions favouring peace and arbitration have been passed annually at its Executive Sessions. It was not, however, until the Annual Executive of 1896, which met at Boston, that a resolution was entered on our minutes to the effect that from that moment the National Council of Women should be committed to peace pro-

paganda throughout the country. Moreover, the National Council sent up a resolution to the International Council asking the executive of that body to endorse the resolution of the American Council. As Lady Aberdeen has told you, a similar resolution had already been brought before the International Council Executive by the Canadian Council. To my mind it is a beautiful coincidence that the two National Councils of the New World should have united in this matter without collusion or without any knowledge on the part of either of what the other was doing. This shows that the spirit which moves across the North American continent is a spirit which makes for righteousness, albeit now and again it is met by a sudden command to halt. Encouraged by the approval of the Executive of the International, the Council of the United States assembled in Annual Executive Session in Nashville, in October of 1897, resolved to inscribe the name and the symbol of the National Council of the United States upon the peace banner and to order that this banner should be always hung with the American flag at council meetings. Should the resolution which you have heard meet with the unanimous approval of the International Council, it is hoped that the peace banner will become ultimately the recognised international banner under which all nations of the world shall assemble, feeling that they have never come under the best inspiration of their own respective flags, until, with their own colours, the banner of peace is unfurled. Just after the Executive Meeting of 1897 the war cloud settled down upon our country. Letters and telegrams arrived from all parts with such questions as—"What will be the attitude of the National Council of the United States towards peace and arbitration now?" The Press did not suppress their jeers, but the Council felt that the declaration of war was to them a command to renew their efforts in behalf of peace. They realised that they had not moved soon enough. This generation of Americans had been cradled in the thought that war *could not* be declared by any country against them, and *would not* be declared by them against any other country. The Council Executive were humiliated by the discovery that their nation could be plunged in war, but its only effect was to incite them to new endeavours. Just before the declaration of war an appeal was made in the name of the National Council of Women of the United States to President M'Kinley, protesting, in the name of the Council, against a war then only threatening. I am proudly grateful to add that

President M'Kinley dictated a letter to the President of the National Council, in which he expressed his profound gratitude for the appeal sent from the Council, and the hope that whether war should come or not the Council should go forward in its work. Too late the women of the Council learned that occasions might arise in which nations would feel themselves not only justified in war but compelled to it. Undoubtedly the leaders of our Government felt themselves compelled to the course pursued by them, and the National Council did not consider its action an impeachment of our Government; it was simply such an expression of aspiration as it would be helpful to all Governments to receive from their women. At the last Executive Session held at Omaha, in October 1898, the country having then suffered six months' experience of victorious war, the Council confirmed the action that had been taken by the preceding Executive, and when, last February, the Council convened at Washington in triennial session, its members felt that there had come an occasion in which they could make a practical movement in behalf of the doctrine of international peace. Already there had come from the most unexpected source the appeal to all the nations of the earth, through their respective Governments, to meet in conference to consider international arbitration. The women of our Council thought it proper to express their appreciation of a divine thought, no matter in what heart that divine thought had sprung. Therefore it was decided by a unanimous vote that a letter of gratitude and greeting should be sent to the Czar from the National Council, and a pledge that they would help in the formation of a public opinion in their country which should compel their Government (if such compulsion were necessary) to send commissioners to the Hague, commissioners who should go there with the intention of serving the cause in the name of which they had then convened. Again there floated in upon us cynical jeers, sceptical criticisms, and reproaches from the non-sympathetic that this action was unpatriotic and un republican. We were asked: "Could we, republican daughters of a free land, join with a Czar in any aspiration?" We replied then, as we declare to-night, that it becomes the daughters of a free land—daughters of a Republic—to believe that God may breathe into any man, or into any nation, the breath of an immortal aspiration; that He may give any man and any nation power to crystallise immortal aspirations into customs, precedents, laws, which in their turn shall aid in the redemption of humanity.

When public feeling was in this state there came a call from across the sea asking that a universal demonstration of women in behalf of peace should be held throughout our country on May 15th. The invitation to act as chairman of the American Committee for this demonstration reached me on April 16th, and on May 15th, only 29 days after the first announcements were given to the Press, there were held in 21 States and Territories of the Union 74 meetings of women, in which over 75,000 women joined in voting resolutions thanking the Czar for his initiative, and others pledging to the commissioners from the United States sitting in the Hague Conference the support and sympathy of American women. Of the 75,000 American women thus convened, a sufficient number were present in a delegate capacity to increase the entire number represented in the meetings to above 175,000. As another result of the work that could be crowded into 29 short days, from more than 1500 pulpits sermons were preached in behalf of the cause in which the women's meetings had been convened. Does not this witness to a depth of earnestness hidden in quiet home-keeping hearts? Does it not witness to a universal impulse throughout the country? Women do learn, through the calamities of war, to desire peace, and to set upon it new value. Mothers whose sons had been buried in distant islands did not love their country less than before, but their love had taken a new direction. By the desolation of their own hearths they were reminded of the divine principles on which the great Republic of the West was founded. They were roused to a new sense of what might be implied in the increase of a standing army, in the possession of a magnificent navy, in an Imperialistic movement, and in no uncertain tone they declared their unwillingness to see the institutions of militarism planted upon the free soil of the Republic.

We have been told that of all the questions on our programme this is the one which women are least fitted to discuss—one concerning which they should be most modest in the expression of their views; indeed, it has been intimated in high quarters that this is a subject in which "women practically have no interest." It will, however, be difficult to divest the minds of women of any interest in the question of peace, so long as wars may be maintained only by feeding the greedy cannon of contending armies with the fruit of their own lives. Therefore, Mme. President, I feel justified in saying that in the name of the National Council of Women of the United States, and in behalf of the homes of

the Old World as well as of the New, I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution.

**Mme. Chéliga** (France), supporting the resolution, said : Je ne représente pas la France, ni aucun pays en particulier, mais la *Ligue des Femmes pour le Désarmement International*, œuvre de l'alliance entre les femmes de tous les pays.

Cette œuvre consacre tous ses efforts au bon combat par l'influence morale et par la propagande incessante contre la haine fratricide qui amène ce résultat funeste : la guerre.

La Ligue, qui a son Bureau Central à Paris, présidé par une femme de bien, la Princesse Wiszniewska, compte actuellement six cent onze mille adhérentes.

Cependant tous les jours de nouvelles adhésions nous viennent, car la femme de notre époque a compris enfin, qu'au lieu de pleurer et de souffrir en silence, il faut agir afin de vaincre le mal.

Ce que nous voulons, c'est avoir dans chaque foyer familial une voix douce et persuasive, afin qu'elle dise souvent à son entourage, que notre devoir humain est, non de s'entr' égorger, et d'entreprendre la conquête du sol au prix du sang et des larmes, mais de nous assister réciproquement, de verser sur nos anciennes blessures le baume du pardon et de l'amour.

La force qui n'est pas au service du bon vouloir, est méprisable.

Nous femmes, nous avons beaucoup souffert de la force brutale dont la forme la plus intense est la guerre.

Donc, c'est à nous de protester toujours et partout contre l'apothéose de la victoire, assurée par l'oppression du faible, par le pillage et le meurtre.

Le rôle de la femme dans la propagande pacifique de ces dernières années du siècle est vraiment digne d'être signalé à ceux qui écrivent l'histoire.

Il y avait, certes, un mouvement pacifique depuis de longues années et les noms des promoteurs de cette idée magnifique de l'Arbitrage International méritent d'être inscrits dans le Livre d'Or de l'humanité. Mais, et c'est un fait qui peut être vérifié par les archives de notre bureau central, ce n'est que depuis la création de la Ligue des Femmes pour le Désarmement International, que les adhésions à la propagande active de l'idée pacifique, se comptent par centaines de mille.

Je répète cela avec bonheur et fierté, car j'ai vu naître cette œuvre, jeune encore, elle n'a que deux ans d'existence, j'ai assisté à son développement, à ses efforts, et aux difficultés, aux persécu-

tions même, qui n'ont pas pourtant le moins du monde empêché le travail, aujourd'hui si fructueux.

Voici le bilan exact des travaux de la Ligue : quatorze foyers de propagande en France, qui représentent 68,573 voix pacifiques. Des Comités auxiliaires à l'étranger dont la vice-présidence fut confiée à des femmes capables de diriger le mouvement de propagande pacifique dans leurs pays respectifs et qui remplissent admirablement leur rôle dans l'action solidaire, notamment cinq en Allemagne, à Berlin, Breslau, Bremen, Dresde et Hambourg, ayant recueilli 86 mille quatre cent onze voix pacifiques. Sept vice-présidentes en Angleterre, et il m'est particulièrement agréable de citer au milieu de cette brillante assemblée, devant les hôtes qui nous ont fait un accueil aussi gracieux, que la première alliance féminine internationale en vue de la guerre contre la guerre, fut faite entre les femmes Anglaises et leurs sœurs Françaises le 28 Avril 1898. Cet acte important est signé par vingt présidentes des plus importantes sociétés anglaises, dont je ne cite pas les noms de peur d'abuser du temps qui me fut accordé pour ce petit discours, et qui d'ailleurs se trouvent sur tous nos imprimés, mais que je remercie au nom de la Ligue le plus cordialement.

Nous avons des Comités auxiliaires en Belgique, en Chili, en Californie, en Egypte, aux États-Unis d'Amérique, en Galicie autrichienne, en Italie, à Madagascar, en Moravie, en Norvège, en Roumanie, en Suisse, en Suède, total 545,109 voix à l'étranger, et puisque chaque jour nos rangs augmentent, nous espérons pour l'année prochaine à notre premier Congrès, être au moins un million de femmes militantes contre la guerre.

Lorsque M. Stead pendant son séjour à Paris, a déclaré le beau projet de la croisade pour la paix impossible, notre Ligue fut fort peinée, mais avec la persévérance qui caractérise la propagande féminine, nous avons réalisé en partie ce que les hommes ont jugé irréalisable ; c'est à dire que, sur l'initiative de la Ligue communiquée à toutes nos vice-présidentes à la suite d'une décision votée par notre Bureau Central le 2 Septembre 1898, dans presque toutes les capitales du monde, des conférences populaires ont été organisées, une foule de télégrammes adressés à M. de Beaufort, Président d'honneur de la Conférence de la Haye, exprimèrent le voeu ardent des représentants de toutes les classes de la société en faveur de la paix et de la concorde entre toutes les nations. Et malgré le trouble dont Paris est la proie, nous avons osé organiser deux grands meetings, un au centre de la

ville, l'autre dans un quartier populaire, où un public très nombreux affirma par une vote unanime sa sympathie pour la paix universelle.

Notre Ligue tâche surtout de faire comprendre aux amis de la paix, que la paix armée c'est le menace perpétuel, et qu'il faut par tous les moyens obtenir que la guerre soit non seulement reléguée, mais supprimée, effacée du programme social, comme une iniquité et une monstruosité.

En remerciant Mme. la Présidente, et l'assemblée de m'avoir accordé leur bienveillante attention, je répète notre cri de ralliement: Femmes de tous les pays, unissez-vous en éducatrices de l'enfance, élevez la génération future et le fléau de la guerre disparaîtra pour faire place à la fraternité universelle!

Un mot encore, pour vous annoncer que l'année prochaine la Ligue organise un Congrès International à Paris, pendant l'Exposition, et que tous les amis de la paix qui partagent nos idées, seront les bienvenus à ce Congrès.

The resolution was put to the meeting, and carried with acclamation.

Mme. de Waszkiewitz von Schilfgaarde, Holland, moved that a telegram from this meeting be sent to the Peace Conference at the Hague, and said:—Allow me, in the first place, to utter a word of thanks to the honourable President for having placed Arbitration on the programme of the International Council of Women. Never could she have been better inspired. Of all social and political work, none is so much adapted to woman's nature and woman's sphere of action as working in the grand cause of peace, which involves the brotherhood of man, the solidarity of the human race. Moreover, the principle of conservation being the fundamental principle of woman's nature, every fibre in her cries out against the great destroyer, War.

But only unpractical idealists, wild Utopians, can hope to do away with war without first the principle of right having triumphed, and having been enthroned as sovereign supreme.

The more this principle progresses and penetrates into the society of nations, the more arbitration shows itself to be bound up with the very structure of that society. An intense, profound movement carries the nations onward towards arbitration, and constitutes an enlightened manifestation of the juridical conscience of the people in our days.

Civilisation victoriously pursues in space and time its progressive evolution. Along the whole line of the nineteenth

century we witness with joy a movement more and more accentuated in favour of the pacific solution of international conflicts, and the pressure of public opinion has been for much in this onward and upward movement.

Humanity in its progressive evolution tends every day more and more to establish the respect of equity as the basis of its constitution; the empire of right is daily gaining in strength, causing in the meantime the retrocession of the reign of brutal force.

The development in international society of positive institutions corresponding to this ascensional movement of right is a normal and necessary processus. Thus the formation of a juridical state between the nations, by the organisation and extension of international arbitration, presents itself not as a Utopia, but as the consequence of an evolution begun by history, and progressing under our very eyes.

This being the case, it seems to me to be our duty to help on this evolution by freely making use of the potent instrument of association, which better than individual effort can act on public opinion.

All these considerations, joined to the fact that in Holland hardly anything was being done to make the people, and especially the women, partake in this evolutionary work, ripened the resolution to try what I could do in that line. An apparently futile circumstance made me join, about a year ago, the Paris Women's Disarmament League, and try to form a Dutch branch. I published a few articles, but found it rather slow, uphill work, and so, in order to kindle some enthusiasm in my countrywomen, I resolved to deliver a lecture—a great enterprise for me, who, until that day, had upheld that the last place a woman had to be seen in was on the platform. But there was no help for it. I had to speak, and speak I did. On that day, the 26th of August, our League was born, and from that moment I felt I would be able to make a women's league live and thrive.

When, two days later, the papers brought the Czar's rescript, my spirit seemed all at once to be illumined. I then knew something had been behind the futile circumstance which made me join the Paris League. I knew I would have to act in order to rouse the people to the true understanding of the grand, new era the Czar's rescript opened for down-trodden, overburdened humanity. I knew at once some sort of mission was mine, and that in the first place the women had to respond to the Czar's

appeal. I therefore prepared a memorial, in which the women all over the world could join, couched in these terms: "Les femmes du monde entier ne peuvent qu'applaudir avec une profonde joie à l'initiative qu'a prise votre majesté dans la grande question de la paix et des intérêts les plus graves de l'humanité. Au nom de nos sœurs nous prions V. M. de daigner agréer l'hommage de notre gratitude la plus vive."

This memorial obtained, in the afternoon of the 31st of August, 399 signatures, and in the evening I sent the text to some 25 workers for peace, with a circular which, besides the request to cause the memorial to be signed by their respective country-women, contained these words: "Ce que je rêve ce serait une démonstration monstrueuse pour que quand les délégués des gouvernements convoqués par le Czar d'assembleront, ils sentent derrière eux la pression de leurs peuples tout entiers désirant la paix." In several places my request was complied with; notably in Denmark, Sweden and Norway this memorial obtained thousands of signatures.

But at the headquarters of the League in Paris, the fact that an international step had been taken by anyone but them caused great indignation, and after a little while it seemed advisable for us to constitute a Dutch Women's League, which should work hand in hand with all other friends of peace without being subordinate to anyone. This was done on November 8th. From that day our League entered on a flourishing period. On January 1st we counted 250 members; now the number has risen to 1250.

Besides the ordinary League's work, I tried hard at getting up some demonstration, either international or national, and when I heard of Mr Stead's crusade plan I resolved to do all I could to make Holland partake in this. In order to reach all layers of society, a committee was formed of men and women of different political, social and religious shades. We issued a manifesto to the Dutch people, explaining the importance of the rescript, laying stress on their duty to ask for right as well as peace, and urging them on to sign the memorials, somewhat differently worded. A propaganda meeting was held in Amsterdam, at which about 5000 persons were present. I lectured in several places, and the result of the manifestation was that the memorials obtained 225,000 signatures. These memorials, accompanied by a beautifully caligraphed address, were forwarded to the Czar by the intermediary of our Foreign Office. After this, Mme. Selenka

requested me to make the Dutch women join in her grand international demonstration. So much having been done already, we could not get up a movement on a large scale. So I composed a resolution in favour of arbitration, and sent this to nearly all women's associations in the country. Twenty-one small meetings were held, in which the resolution was passed.

We also exchanged letters of sympathy with twenty different countries. This letter, by which I now wish to convey, to all women here assembled, the greetings of my countrywomen, runs thus :—

Fully convinced that in the hands of us women lies the fate of the world in the ages to come, that it is ours to wield it either for weal or for woe, we welcome with joy every effort that is made to unite and bring together the women all over the world. The rescript of the Czar, opening a prospect of peace and comfort to the overburdened nations, fills our hearts with a new hope and a new joy, and if ever, now the moment has come in which all women ought to join hands and hearts and say, of one accord : Seas may separate us or mountains divide us, but our souls know no barriers ; we will be one in the sacred war against war, in our battling for peace and right."

We will cultivate a feeling of sisterhood among the women all over the world. We will impress on our children the grand ideal of the brotherhood of man. We will educate our daughters to be the mothers of a new race of lovers of peace and warriors for equity and right.

Sisters from everywhere, we greet you and give you the assurance of our hearty feelings of sympathy.

**Miss Ellen Robinson**, fraternal delegate from the Bureau International de la Paix, seconded the resolution, which was put to the meeting and carried, the President undertaking to despatch the telegram.

The last speaker was **Miss Krog** (Norway), whose speech was as follows :—

I wish to say that I fully appreciate all that has been said in favour of this great movement for peace, and at the same time avail myself of this opportunity to state that an international congress for peace and arbitration is to be held in *Christiania*, the Norwegian capital, early in August. It is one of the interparliamentary congresses that are now being regularly held. The Norwegian Parliament, as you may know, is the pioneer in the peace movement, but I claim no particular credit for our

country on that account; it is only natural that the smaller nations are the *most interested* in this great movement. What I wished to impress on this large audience here to-night was, that whenever the great question, which we have had before us on this occasion, comes on for discussion and settlement, the smaller nations will not be forgotten, and to remind you that the smaller nations understand the word *peace* in its deepest and truest meaning—including that of justice and freedom.

In saying this, I am not, at this moment, thinking of my own country. There is another small country which all the peoples of the Northern countries have learnt to love and respect—I mean *Finland*. We have the highest esteem for it on account of its wonderful development and great civilisation, and for the moral strength of the character of the Finnish people.

I have no intention to say anything about the present state of affairs in that country or of moving any amendment in connection with what I have said, but I did not like to let this opportunity pass without having mentioned *Finland* to you—to the many men and women who are gathered here to-night in the cause of humanity.

The resolution was agreed to, put and carried. A comprehensive vote of thanks to the speakers, choir and vocalists, was proposed by the Earl of Aberdeen and seconded by the Rev. H. R. Haweis.

Lord Aberdeen in his remarks, which were most cordially endorsed by the audience, conveyed the hearty thanks of the meeting, and expressed the gratitude of those responsible for the arrangements, to the officers and members of the peace societies who had so warmly supported the holding of this large demonstration and who had contributed so much to its success by their ungrudging personal contributions of time and work; to the Boys' Brigade, which had so ably performed the duties of stewards during the evening; to the Choir of St Mary Abbot's; and to Mr Henry Bird, who, as organist and choir-master, had given such generous help; and lastly, to the artistes whose singing had been so highly appreciated, congratulating Miss Ella Walker, a Canadian singer, whose *début* this was, upon appearing for the first time in London under such auspices, and upon the splendid reception she had obtained.

This terminated the proceedings.



MRS. ELLEN JOHNSON.

*Late Superintendent of Massachusetts State Prison and Reformatory for Women.*

(Mrs. Johnson died suddenly in London the day after reading her striking paper on "Treatment of Women in Prisons" in the Social Section.)



MRS. BENSON.

*Convener of the Social Sectional Committee.*

[To face p. 244.



## CONFERENCE HELD BY THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

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GREAT HALL, ST MARTIN'S TOWN HALL.

*SATURDAY, JULY 1, MORNING.*

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The COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN in the Chair.

In opening the proceedings the President said : "There is no subject more fitting than organisation to be considered at the close of the Congress which, from every point of view, I think we may thankfully regard as a very great success. This has certainly been attained by organisation. This is not the work of weeks or months, but of years. The Council has received congratulations from all quarters. Some of us are but too conscious that there have been mistakes, but we will endeavour to profit by those mistakes, and meanwhile we are deeply grateful to the many helpers who have made this Congress what it is; but if one person more than another is deserving of thanks it is Miss Wilson, our corresponding secretary, who, during the absence of the President from the country, has had the brunt of the work of organisation thrown upon her shoulders. To all our workers—and their name is legion—the heartfelt thanks of the Council are due for enabling us to prove once more that women have the power of organisation, and that they know its secret, which lies in a combination of centralisation and devolution. I must not, however, begin to trench on the subject which we know will be so ably treated by our special speaker this morning—our Vice-President, Mrs May Wright Sewall.

## Organisation as a Factor in the Development of Modern Social Life.

**Mrs May Wright Sewall.**

ORGANISATION as a social force has developed along about the same lines in all our modern countries. Hence, if I discuss it in its development in my own country I shall have suggested its trend in modern Europe.

Natural affinity as a principle of organisation, or rather as an element of it, is less obstructed in a new than in an old country. All of the conditions that tend to crystallisation in isolated circles, classes, etc., or in individualities, being absent—society being in what may be called a fluid state—its various members find little difficulty in forming nuclei suitable to their various characters, motives and purposes. Pioneer conditions are friendly to organisation, since organisation is a confession of individual weakness. The individual, finding himself incapable of accomplishing his desire by his own unaided efforts, seeks to kindle the same desire in other minds, and by the union of his own efforts with those of others to accomplish the purpose thus made common.

The earliest expression of the tendency toward organisation in pioneer life came in the shape of societies for mutual advantage in pioneer labours—for example, in the clearing up of lands, in the erection of dwellings, and, later, in the construction of roads, schoolhouses and churches. English people will never be able to understand social organisation in the United States until they realise that the people who first undertook organisation for the amelioration of social conditions belong to the same class as the individuals who, in England, undertook the amelioration of the social conditions of their respective parishes, townships and counties. By this I mean to indicate that the people who in England would be classed as nobles and gentry, but who, under republican institutions, lose the distinctive title while retaining the distinctive character, were the movers in social organisation.

The pioneer could not often alone, for example, endow the school or build the church; but he could do what was infinitely better for his community—he could inspire his neighbours with his own desire to improve their common condition. He could

unite with him those whose assistance would sufficiently augment his own resources to enable them to accomplish the purpose for the common good.

Exactly the same principles and influences which were active in producing efforts for material advantage were active in creating organisations for the common spiritual good.

No part of American history, or rather no feature of early American life, is more interesting than this tendency to correct by organisation the weakness of the individual transplanted into a new country. However, it is only one branch of this large and fascinating subject that I can discuss. Organisations among women in my country may be said, in general, to have three types, and the evolutionary process may be easily traced in the developments of these types.

The first organisations of women were, in every instance, for the benefit of some suffering class, and were utterly unselfish. They had no bearing on the condition of women themselves, but regarded entirely either the physical or spiritual welfare of others. For example, the first National society of women in the United States was an Anti-Slavery Society, formed with the ultimate purpose of delivering the coloured race in our country from bondage, through the inculcation of the doctrine of human liberty, and through building up public opinion on the one side, and aiding the escape of fugitives on the other. This society assumed a national name and form as early as 1836.

The most important organisations among women, immediately following it, were missionary and temperance societies—the names of both implying their objects—the one carrying religious influences into the western territories of our own country or into other lands, and the other seeking to deliver men from the bondage of the drink habit. It will be seen that these were all altruistic endeavours, and, curiously enough, the first egoistic organisations among women were the fruit of their failures to accomplish their altruistic purposes in their philanthropic organisations. It was through working in these philanthropic societies that women found the limitations of their power. For example, they needed more knowledge, larger information in order to meet their opponents in argument, and to overcome antagonisms. They needed more money and more freedom in the use of money in order to expend for the causes nearest their hearts. It was in the endeavour to secure civil liberty for the one class of men, and moral emancipation for another, that women discovered the limi-

tations on their own civil freedom. More than this, it was through this benevolent and philanthropic public-spirited activity that they first experienced the need for political recognition.

The famous Convention at Seneca Falls in 1848, so frequently referred to, was the first formal expression on the part of women of their discovery of the limitations of their educational liberty, their industrial freedom, their pecuniary resources and their civil privileges. To my mind, also, this Convention was the first expression on the part of American women that the limitations above named accounted for the limitations set upon their social influence. After this Convention there was a decade in which our social history shows that women were in various parts of our country organising for what might be called their own advantage; always, however, with an ultimate altruistic purpose. They had simply found that they might not work effectively for others until they had done somewhat to improve the conditions of their own lives.

Then came the Civil War, and out of the exigencies of those fateful years was born a new sense of ability; a new comprehension of their resources, on the one hand, and of their obligations on the other. It was during this crisis in our national life that American women were taken outside their homes into non-domestic occupations.

No one can study intelligently the conditions of either domestic or social life in the United States without finding the source of many of their characteristics in that national convulsion which turned a nation of civilians out of their ordinary occupations into military life, and replaced them in all possible occupations by the mothers, wives and sisters of the households. It was in this crisis that American women discovered that they were neither physically feeble, mentally incapable, nor necessarily pecuniarily dependent.

One cannot stop to trace this change step by step, and to tell the exact date upon which some new occupation, hitherto thought by men and women alike to be utterly improper for women to follow, was entered successfully by some women. But one may say that the change made was so great that, from seven non-domestic industries open to women in 1848, the date of the Seneca Falls Convention, in 1885, when the International Cotton Exposition was held at New Orleans, the census of occupations taken showed that women were working successfully in over 400 non-domestic lines.

Upon this subject I can speak with some authority, for the Governor of the State of Indiana appointed me to the difficult but interesting task of writing a monograph upon the industrial position of women in Indiana. Undoubtedly, to my audience, Indiana seems a State of the extreme west, but, in reality, it is an eastern middle State of our great union. Its population is not dense, being about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  millions. In such a State conditions of life for the masses are much easier than in a denser population; and, generally speaking, the more arduous, the more exposed and the more difficult employments are entered upon by women only in dense populations. But, as far back as 1885, in my own State of Indiana, there was no occupation pursued by a man that was not also followed by a woman. At that time there was in the State of Indiana two women lawyers, and there were also two women blacksmiths. But when I confess that in my own State there were two women blacksmiths, it must not be considered that I am making an argument to show that there is any natural affinity between a woman's hand and a horse's hoof. I am only stating an interesting fact. The fact, simply expressed, is this, that where matters are left to settle themselves, women, like men, will work when work is the condition of support; they will enter the occupation which, under all the circumstances, taking into account individual conditions and personal environment, is best, easiest and most remunerative for them.

The same crisis in our national history which brought a few women into most exceptional, and, one may say, perhaps, most unsuitable labours, also brought them in large numbers into important and congenial posts. Prior to the Civil War, the majority of teachers throughout the United States were men. During the Civil War, when many men were taken from the teacher's desk to military service, and many others left teaching for more remunerative posts, which were vacated by their enlisted brothers, the schoolrooms fell, one may almost say, into the hands of women. This was true to such an extent at least, that in the State of Indiana the number of women following this profession increased from a few hundred in 1860 to many thousands in 1885.

It is easy to be seen that on the conclusion of the war in 1865 it was quite impossible that women should retire suddenly from the occupations in which they had been engaged, and go back into unremunerative domestic life. Moreover, society had discovered that domestic life, so far from being destroyed by the

fact that women were engaged in productive labours, was, on the whole, improved by it.

During this period—I speak of the period of the war—all the organisations affected by women were again altruistic. They organised a patriotic league for the support of the institutions of their country; a Freedman's Bureau, in the first instance, for the protection of refugees, and in the last instance, for the protection and education of a legally manumitted race into a self-supporting citizenship. They organised a sanitary commission which proved itself a valuable auxiliary in the conduct of the war. They had also, in their respective committees, assumed quite unconsciously the obligations which had previously belonged to the men of those communities, in the organised social life of village and town. From 1867 one may date a new character in the organised life of American women. Without falling away from the support of altruistic societies, they multiplied organisations for their own improvement and advantage. What may be termed the egoistic organisations of women may be divided into three classes—intellectual, industrial and political. From this year one may date the movement so potent in its effect upon the social life of the United States, known as the club movement.

Here one must stop to remind you that the women's club in the United States is quite different from the women's clubs of London. So far as I know, our women's club has no counterpart in any European country. It was born out of the discovery that woman possessed powers which, in her life, had no arena, and also out of the discovery that to secure an arena these powers themselves must be augmented by wider culture. The earlier women's clubs, therefore, were, in almost all instances, mutual improvement societies, established to supplement the inadequate education which women had received during the period properly belonging to school life. The programmes of these clubs would show that many of them were essentially classes in literature, history, the history of art, etc., where at all times the members were learners, and where, in succession, each member became a teacher. The history of the club movement has been written by one of its originators. It is a movement the history of which must be understood by anyone who would read intelligently the social life of the United States at this time.

It was not until the club movement was fairly well organised, not until its influence was rather widely spread, that another form of organisation sprang up which has tended largely to augment

the influence of women through the augmentation of their powers. If I may ask this patient audience to refer to the beginning of this address, you will bear in mind that in the earliest organisations of women, only women of the same social group came together for the accomplishment of a public purpose which appealed to the same social or religious group. The club in the United States was the very first social agency which undertook to bridge the chasms that had only deepened between unlike groups. For example, in the prosecution of missionary work, only women of the same denomination united together. In the prosecution of the anti-slavery work, the women who united had, for the most part, been able to do so only by breaking away from their respective religious denominations, and uniting in a philanthropic effort, which, to their minds, imposed obligations transcending the obligation of formal religion. As they had grown in industrial freedom, women belonging to the same industry, or rather women belonging to the same profession, had got used to meeting together, though it cannot be said that before 1880 women had organised along professional and industrial lines. A club in a neighbourhood brought together the women who loved literature, history or art, for mutual improvement in these studies, quite independent of their denominational affiliations. And so the club became the first bridge over sectarian and social chasms.

It may be said that we have had thirty years of this kind of organisation in the United States, and the educational life of our country cannot be studied by one who ignores this important auxiliary of the formal educational system. The club has been the feeder of the chataquas, the summer assemblies and the university extension centres in our country; and the intellectual life of our whole nation has been elevated and unified by it.

It would be most interesting to diverge here for the continuous discussion of the women's club as known in the United States, and its influence as a social factor, but I am, this morning, endeavouring to treat the subject in general, and may not indulge myself in details.

I would remind you that, at the outset, I asserted that organisations among women had three types, and that the first had been altruistic, of which I gave as examples the anti-slavery, the missionary, and temperance societies.

The second type, I said, was egoistic, and the best example of this is the women's club. But there is that in the nature of women that makes any purely egoistic work unsufficing, and one

may fairly say that our women were diverted into egoistic organisations only to increase their power for larger altruistic service. That larger altruistic service is finding its expressions in organisations that have, for the most part, sprung up since 1880. These include patriotic orders, social economic societies, municipal improvement clubs, peace and arbitration societies, and what to my mind is the climax of organisation, namely, that form of organisation which seeks to unify into larger bodies the groups that seem to be severed from one another by their distinct and sometimes antagonistic purposes. You know I refer to the Council movement.

I must refer now to another date before I can discuss intelligently this latest form of organisation. Many of you will know I refer to the date 1888, when the National American Women's Suffrage Society of the United States invited all other organisations of women to attend a Council in celebration of its own fortieth anniversary. I think that, until then, women had not themselves realised the degree to which they had separated themselves from others with different standards of culture, different philanthropic purposes, different religious affiliations, by the closeness of the bond they had formed with those of the same political and religious affiliations, the same philanthropic purposes and the same standards of culture.

The correspondence involved in inviting all other national organisations of women to assist at the *fête* of the suffragists, revealed lines of cleavage in the social structure of whose depth and breadth probably no one had been conscious.

Hitherto it was found that Conservatives had regarded Radicals with horror, while Radicals had looked upon Conservatives with contempt. Generally speaking, the religious bodies had thought suffragists to be infidels; while suffragists, although including every possible phase of religious opinion in their membership, had, as a whole, regarded the organisations of women formed along denominational lines as narrow and dogmatic. It was discovered that the basis of all these uncharitable and, relatively speaking, false opinions was what the basis of all uncharity must always be, a prejudice whose only explanation was ignorance.

It was out of this discovery that what we have come to call the Council idea was born. Women of all views reproached themselves for their misunderstanding of each other, and every group is gradually coming to realise that the reason it has been

misunderstood by other groups is because it has held aloof from them ; and gradually all are coming to realise that the Council is the only possible neutral platform upon which all may meet without surrendering any conviction necessary to the accomplishment of their own distinct purpose, and with a chance of increasing the adherents of their own convictions and the advocates of their own purpose from groups who have previously had no true knowledge of either their convictions or their purposes.

The impulse given to organisation by the first Council of 1888 was the strongest impulse toward unification which American society has ever received. It goes without saying that the large principles underlying the Council idea appeal only to broad and generous minds ; but every possible organisation has among its leaders some broad and generous mind. It is upon this fact that we may base a rational hope that the Council will ultimately include all organisations.

In every organisation in our country there is the practical, and, perhaps, what may be called the sentimental side. We are, undoubtedly, as a nation, richly endowed with sentiment. We delight in general principles.

A large part of organised effort is for the inculcation of principles of ideas, but along with this inculcation of what may be called sentiment for certain ideas there is practical work. For example, we believe in equality, and, in spite of all existing inequalities in culture and character as well as in estate, we believe that, in ultimate human society, there must be equality of opportunity, equality of privilege, equality of liberty. On the side of sentiment all our social organisations illustrate and propagate this national belief, but on the practical side every organisation has its distinct work. At the present time, for example, the organisations of women in the different professions have further practical work ; either the founding of new institutions where women may study the professions, or the opening of old institutions to women ; or the enactment of laws by the different State legislatures which will prevent the abridgment of the privileges belonging to any profession on account of sex.

So, likewise, the Association of Collegiate Alumnae has its practical work in getting scholarships and fellowships in women's colleges and in our co-educational universities established for women. Also such societies work for the improvement of secondary education, for the elevation of the entrance requirements of our different colleges and universities, and for securing

donations to increase the facilities for the higher education of women. So, too, our women's clubs are founding libraries, securing township libraries, and improving all legislation bearing upon libraries and schools.

One charge often brought against so much organised life among women is a just one, viz., that it tends to separate women from men, to make for them a separate intellectual existence, and to divide social life.

To my mind one sees in the history of organisations of women the evolutionary process of society. Women with inferior educational opportunity, with inadequate pecuniary resources, with the consciousness of subordination and dependence inseparable from such conditions, had and could have neither freedom of speech nor of action in organisation where men and women were both admitted. Their separate organised life has been an education to them, through which they have gotten the use of their powers, and are being trained to work on a plane of recognised equality with men in all walks of life.

It is a serious limitation on the social life of my own country that men and women are so much separated, not *by* their respective pursuits, but *in* them. But, at the present time, there is a distinct tendency for men and women to come together in organised life. Women's clubs, as I have described them, were but the precursor of such clubs as the Nineteenth Century of New York, the Twentieth Century of Chicago, and the Contemporary of Philadelphia and Indianapolis.

The separate work of women in their church societies has trained them into an ability to work with men in the administration of Church affairs, and this ability prompts the desire, and the desire has manifested itself in appeals to the conferences and assemblies of many of our denominations in only the most liberal of which women are now admitted on the same terms as men.

It has been more difficult to teach working women in the United States the strength of organisation than it has been to teach the women of the so-called leisured classes. Of course, in the United States, there is no leisured class of men. Here and there in every community is a man of fortune who does not seek to augment it. Occasionally such a man is a blessing to the community in which he resides, but, generally speaking, he is the most miserable and the most useless member of it. There is in every American community a large number of women accustomed to comfort, to luxury, without toil in the ordinary sense of the

term. There are among this class numbers of helpless and relatively useless beings, but, generally speaking, the members of this so-called leisured class of American women are the busiest and most beneficent members of their respective communities. They maintain and direct the charities ; they organise the social life ; they improve the taste, and they demand a conformity to improved taste. They have time to give to their own culture, and they join others with them in their efforts to get some expression of culture in the public social life.

Working girls' clubs have now been formed. They are, so far as I have been able to observe the corresponding clubs in England, organised on quite a different basis from clubs of the same name over here. Working women themselves are not only the members, but the officers of these clubs, and through them get a training in the formation and expression of opinions, and in the management of their affairs, which must fit them, after a time, to enter upon terms of equality with working men in all organisations of labour.

Thus it will be seen that my own view is that the organisations of women tell the story of the apprenticeship of women in getting a knowledge of the use of their own powers and resources. In the higher development of society, women will necessarily pass from this apprenticeship into united, organised effort with men for the improvement of the common life of men and women, in economic conditions, in the possession and the expression of culture, in a religious life in which men will be as active as women, and in a political life in which the rights of women will be as universally recognised as those of men.

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No discussion followed, Miss Cochrane, however, announcing that a combination of women interested in country workers had been formed the previous day. It was intended to meet twice or three times a year for the purpose of discussion, and it was expected that light would be thrown on subjects concerning which many of them were at present quite ignorant.

Dr Maria Montessori, a delegate from Italy, was then introduced in cordial terms by the President, and presented the greetings of Italian women in her native tongue. The greeting, drawn up by Countess Taverna, Princess di Venosa and the Minister of Public Instruction, was as follows :—

Illustrious Ladies, who meet here to-day in this centre of

civilisation to unite all the progress made by humanity for the cause of woman, I bring you the greetings of the women of Italy, with their best wishes, and also those of an illustrious citizen of Rome, Guido Baccelli, for the sixth time Minister of Public Instruction for Italy.

The fact that a high representative of the Government should wish officially to encourage the social work of justice for which we plead will tell you how much could be done for the cause in Italy if women themselves would only work earnestly for it, and how fruitful would be your co-operation if you would lend your aid to the work of women in the sunny nation favoured by nature.

Although there is not yet a very strong "feminist" party in Italy, still it is noticeable that the activity of woman carried into the field of economy and natural talents is regularly awakened.

Both industrial and agricultural wages are relatively low in Italy. There is hardly any branch of fatiguing work in which woman does not partake largely. Physiologically she certainly cannot be said to fatigue less than man, whilst at the same time there are no Factory and Workshop Acts for the protection of women.

Now the activity of women is explained in many ways. We have employees in telegraph and telephone offices, in libraries, women directors of many important houses of business; popular education is almost two-thirds in the hands of women, who, especially in the last ten years, raise themselves in large numbers in the literary and scientific studies of the university.

In 1896 the statistics report thirty women as taking degrees; in 1898 the number was doubled; to-day there is no university course which is not attended by women.

They have contributed in a way that cannot be ignored to scientific publications, in reward of which they were elevated to the rank of professor at the university, and some have the honour of Chair in the highest academies in Italy, as, for example, that of the Lincei.

Italian women have for some time been celebrated in the fine arts, but now a special progress has arisen in the literary movement, and the greater part of the best Italian literature of to-day is due to women.

Also in the field of sculpture and of painting there is a noticeable progress; and, lastly, in theatrical work also women have recently given good proof of their talent. I will notice in

passing *Anima*, by Amelia Rosselli, and a musical work, the *Drama of Life*, by Virginia Mariani.

But however much Italian women may shine in work and in talent, they are still oppressed by the prejudice that feminine virtue consists only in never stepping outside the family circle, and we see a strange fact—of illustrious women lying still in the modest submission consecrated by the centuries, and preoccupied only of their own welfare. Social studies and collective ideals are grounds almost untrodden by the foot of woman. She does not guard even her own rights. Take, for example, female barristers, who might have causes of their own to defend, and have remained inactive, while this year the free practice of female barristers was defended with so much success at the House of Commons that the proposal was refused by a majority of only sixteen votes.

The liberal professions still offer grave obstacles to women. For example, a lady doctor cannot practise unless she is called in by the husband ; and so she has a good practice in the South of Italy, where the jealousy of the men seeks her as a Turk does for his harem ; while in Middle Italy women who have free choice call in men to doctor them, *as they always have been accustomed to do*, and confine their attention to criticising the private life of the professional lady, driving her back to the numerous band of the intellectual proletariat.

It might justly be said that in Italy it is not so much *man* and the *laws* that are against the progress of woman as woman herself !

In fact, there are laws favourable to woman which she does not take advantage of. For example, she might be a member of the great administrations of charity ; but the ladies limit themselves to collect money at some great charitable festival, leaving the administrations to men.

She could be witness in civil acts, but it is only an exceptional case when a woman profits by it.

Hence in Italy, however much economic conditions and natural talent may urge woman forward in social activity, she is not yet educated up to collective life, and lies still under the weight of the prejudice of centuries. And may action be prepared for union and definite study of the condition of Italian women who have to work for their living, under conditions often the saddest that feeling of humanity can alleviate.

The Association for Women in Italy has precisely this object —to study the condition of Italian women, and to promote a serious and efficacious action on the basis of real facts.

## The Housing of Educated Working Women.

**The President.**—The second half of the meeting is to be devoted to the consideration of a subject of deep moment to many women. I deeply regret that Mr Gilbert Parker is unable through indisposition to read the paper he has promised us, but he has kindly deputed a friend to read it on his behalf.

### Mr Gilbert Parker.

In considering the position of the educated working woman, we cannot escape from the fact that where and how and at what price she works, and where and how and at what price she lives, affects her physical health, her mental ability, her contribution to the civic and social welfare, and her part in the wholesome development of the race. And, since time is short, I may not consider where and how and under what conditions she does her work, for they at the worst are infinitely better than the way she lives, according to the price she gets for that work. Now, where does she live? In what sort of rooms? What kind of food has she? How does she spend her leisure? Generally, are the conditions in which she lives out of business hours the most advantageous for producing the best effort in them, so that she may take her right place in the great scheme of national economy, which is to get—as it has been put—“the best work out of the best brains the nation produces, whether those brains are in male or female heads.”

But, apart from this last view (which, after all, is altruistic and philanthropic, and on a very high ground of national service), is the manner in which she lives at the present time on her small salary suitable to the woman herself, to the human life involuntarily placed in a disadvantageous position, bound to preserve itself from extinction by a ceaseless struggle, and so often without the hope which is given to the poorest man in the most disastrous circumstances?

In the brains and veins of man there is the long line of ancestral tendency, the old predisposition to struggle; he is born with the instinct of labour and fighting. But, more than all, were his will as weak as water and were he without predisposi-

tion, there would still remain for him the incentive to ambition, for many parts of the earth are calling to him, many ways are open, many heights have beacon-lights to cheer him on. But for the woman of the class with which I am dealing to-day there are few prospects which allure, there are few heights of success to climb.

She only asks permission to labour, to earn bread sufficient, and—with the fireside instincts of her sex—a place which has some resemblance, as to comfort, quiet and companionship, to that home which, until the time of her adventure into the hard fields of wage-earning, was her lot and portion.

I venture to set down here the proposition, quite apart from the question of wage-earning—which is a subject for consideration elsewhere—that housing in London is becoming a serious problem to face for all who have not assured incomes to keep them beyond anxiety. It is bitterly hard on the labouring classes, whose homes are daily being pulled down to make way for newer, better, higher-rented buildings; it is not easy for the class with incomes of £200 a year and over; but undoubtedly it is hardest of all upon the educated woman living by her own exertions upon a pittance which it takes her best energies to adjust to her needs. It is hardest, I think, on her, because not only are the conditions of women's labour still unsatisfactory; because the very nature of her work—be it as clerk or secretary, or teacher or typist—involves a close indoor atmosphere, an unbroken concentration of thought, irregular hours, and more or less mental strain all the time she is working; but also because in most cases the professional women referred to are, as Miss Frances Low has put it lately, those "whose birth or breeding have been such as to make a certain standard of comfort and refinement a necessity of life, and who cannot sink to the level of the daughter of the artisan, or even of the small tradesman, without undergoing real hardships and suffering of mind and body."

The aggregate number of women now engaged professionally it is impossible to state, as the figures available are those of the last census, taken in 1891; but, starting from that, and taking into account the fact that women's work has been advancing by leaps and bounds since then, it cannot fall short of at least half a million, and of this number by far the larger proportion falls to London. This is exclusive of those engaged in commercial and industrial life.

The whole question of wages I cannot go into here, but I shall take for a basis now that the majority of educated women workers are earning incomes varying from £50 to £140 a year, or in most cases from 25s. to 30s. a week. A far lower standard than this is set, not by private employers and private establishments, but by the Government itself. At Whitehall and the War Office well-educated ladies are expected to do satisfactory work at from 15s. to 16s. a week, with annual rises of 1s. to 1s. 6d. The Local Government Board pays 14s. a week, with an annual rise of 1s. 6d. That is, after eight years of hard work—much of it unpaid overtime—your educated woman earns the exact salary of the parish scavenger. Better far to take to dog-clipping at half a guinea a poodle, or to walking dogs in the park at half-a-crown apiece. I believe, however, the demand is limited, for poodles, though beautiful, are not a real necessity in the life of a fashionable woman.

Of course I do not include in this class, earning 25s. to 30s. a week, those women and girls of good parentage and education who, doing their work in the world, live in their own homes. I do not include the pretty opportunist who occasionally works, not because she needs to work, but because she wants to buy a new bicycle or display a new hat at Lord's, while at the same time she takes bread out of the mouths of those who go hungry. I do not include those gifted amateurs who, bitten by that pleasant virus of woman's advancement, independence, and—go-as-you-please, shall I say!—swagger it like Rosalind in East End offices, that they may put on airs with their bewildered brothers at home. I do not include the young person who knows she can turn to her friends in an emergency when her weekly accounts do not tally.

But the class of women I have most in my mind to-day are those who have in this great city no home to which to return when their day's work is done; those who have no private income—no matter how small—which takes the sting from the strain of life, which gives that mental confidence so delightful to the brain of the worker. I mean the girl or woman who has no brother to turn to in any emergency—the woman whom every sunset does not bring a day's march nearer home. I mean the woman who has had a piece of bread and tea for breakfast, with, maybe, a doubtful egg, to whom the bun-shop or dairy has dispensed its luxuries for 2d. at noon, and who goes home at night to a sordid boarding-house—if she can afford a boarding-

house—too tired to eat the unappetising food put before her ; too indifferent, through weariness, to mend her clothes or clean them. I mean the woman who goes home to a room under the roof, where going in face-foremost almost necessitates backing out, for it has not space enough to sling a cat—let alone a woman—in ; and sitting on her trunk, with her feet under the washstand, or on the side of the bed, she eats her leathery chop and her cold potato, and drinks the glass of stale water, with that natural gratitude so deep in her mind for permission to live in a world where she was set down without choice, and certainly with no guarantee for even 25s. a week.

I think it a considerable achievement for a woman born in a comfortable state of life to pay 10s. a week out of 25s. for a garret, and to provide herself with food and clothes and all the amusements of life on the other 15s. She needs food—and good food—if she is to do a man's work with a man's brain. She needs clothes—I fancy there is no real objection to that ; and the wear and tear of the clothes of a working woman slogging in a dirty office all day and paddling home through dirty streets, unprotected by the costly penny 'bus, is not a little. I am satisfied also that she needs amusements other than those which a Lord Mayor's Show or a Hyde Park demonstration on Sunday affords ; though of course she may have some opinion as to the delirious enjoyment of a Park demonstration or a Salvation Army band.

For myself, I pity the ragged poor. One can still hear “the cry of the children”—the children playing in the slums almost unconscious of their misery, and snatching scraps from the food little better than offal which their parents eat. But the bitter *silence* of the educated working woman, who must keep up an appearance in the professional world, getting in the actual comfort of life little more than Elizabeth Barrett Browning's ragged child, is more painful still.

Let me make a quotation from the words of one such woman who knows. This is not from any picturesque article in a picture-loving daily, weekly or monthly paper. It is a human document. “What is daily life for the woman who gets 25s. a week ? Well, from the time she gets up in the morning, to snatch a hasty breakfast from a tray in her bedroom, ere rushing off to catch the train or 'bus covering the miles between her and her work, she has to endure a long day's unceasing toil under strain, often at uninteresting and mechanical work in close air and unhealthy surroundings. Lucky if not expected to stay and overtake any

extra arrears, she does the homeward journey over again at 6 o'clock, and returns fagged, headachy and depressed to the 7 by 9 room where she has to stand up to let anyone pass. In addition to the physical and mental degradation that poverty brings, she has the galling sense of giving her best energies and the results of an expensive schooling for a pittance which is half what is paid a junior clerk of no education beyond the three R's. She knows, too, that the quality of her work hasn't a chance beside the fact that she is a woman, and women's labour is cheap, and if *she* doesn't take it a hundred others will step into her shoes. The present monotony of her life leaves her nothing to look forward to, and no hope, through frugality, of saving out of a bare living wage. She has the knowledge, too, that each year will make it harder for her to continue in keen competition with the younger, better-trained women, owing to the demoralisation of her mind from sordid and meagre surroundings, scanty and badly-cooked food, and an utter absence of recreation."

Let me offer three typical cases among such women, and how they work to live. In these the salaries received are respectively 25s., 28s., and 30s.

(a) "Miss Smith," a clergyman's daughter, assists a man who gives lectures to a large number of pupils, makes appointments, keeps the books, does all shorthand and typewriting, conducts his correspondence, etc. She tried various cheap boarding-houses; but, finding none where cleanliness could be had at the figure she could afford to pay, now lives in a room in the S.W. district, for which she pays 10s. out of her weekly 25s. Breakfast and dinner cost her 7s. 7d. a week, bus fares 6d. a day, which brings her outlay up to 20s. 7d.; and out of the remaining 4s. 5d. she has to find a midday meal, baths, washing, clothes, a fire on winter evenings—for which she is charged half-a-crown a week—and numberless small items in the way of boot-cleaning, hot water fetching, etc.

(b) "Miss Jones," the daughter of a professional man who lost his money, having had a better literary education than usual, does research work at the British Museum for an author who pays her 28s. a week. After a long day in that heavy atmosphere, poring over old French and German historical works, she makes the three-quarters-of-hour journey back to a tiny bedroom in Chelsea, where two people make an obstruction; and after a hasty meal, taken off a tray on the bed, she spends the evening in translating and typewriting the results of the day's labour. For this room

8s. 6d. is charged, breakfast and dinner being supplied at 6d. and 8d. each. Another daily sixpence for a bath brings the week's bill up to £1, 0s. 2d.; coals and the mysterious item "kitchen firing" are 1s. 6d., light is 6d., shoe-brushing 6d., and after a weekly 3s. for 'bus fares she is left with exactly 2s. 4d., out of which to pay for her lunch and tea, washing, dress, newspapers, stamps, and recreation of any sort.

(c) "Miss Robinson," the possessor of 30s. a week, is the daughter of a distinguished admiral, whose sudden death left his family practically penniless. After she had learnt typewriting, friends found a post for her with a well-known charitable organisation, where most of the routine of the office falls to her to do. She tried in vain for admission at the best homes for women she could hear of, such as Brabazon House and Sloane Gardens House, but there was no single vacancy, and there were long lists of names waiting their turn. Being comparatively new to the struggle of life, and with her store of vitality as yet undiminished, she at last boldly plunged with a friend, and took a small unfurnished flat in a central part of London, where she has to pay half of the £60 rent out of her £80 a year; but then, as she says, once inside you can sit down and starve comfortably, and you can call your soul your own; which makes up for the sparseness of furniture, and for having to scrub the floors and do all the work yourself, to save a charwoman.

Now, I do not say that all women who earn 25s. or 30s. a week live in a room that you cannot turn round in, and that all have such hard conditions; but I do say that all evidence shows that the majority live in this painful fashion. I do say that it is most difficult to get a room in any possible part of London for less than about 9s. a week—though in a central neighbourhood 12s. or 15s. is asked—and it is difficult to get this sort of room at all, for there is still a prejudice in favour of the male among landladies old enough to know better. I remember a landlady saying to me once: "Now, I always likes the gentlemen; they ain't perticular. They's always out and they don't give no trouble. And such worry nice manners some of 'em, that I always does their mending." This prejudice on the part of landladies for my sex exists, though I need not be expected to share it. I am aware that if Mrs 'Opkins agrees to waive her prejudice in favour of male lodgers only, attention is most grudgingly given. From such a landlady and in such a house it is often found impossible to get breakfast at an early hour or a

small supply of hot water when wanted, while anything in the shape of a visitor is fiercely resented. Extras, too, have a way of mounting up to a point beyond control, and mysterious items of "kitchen firing," "use of cruets," etc., are given to swell the weekly bill after a time. I am told that in reply to an advertisement for such a room, with the special proviso that the price must be moderate, over fifty answers may be received, of which only a couple may offer to let at a smaller sum than 8s., and these are probably at Wandsworth or Pimlico. The former would be impossible for all women the nature of whose work requires them to live within a reasonable distance of it, while the cheaper attractions of Pimlico are too often dearly paid for by annoyances of which one need not speak—for every working woman understands them. To the eight-and-sixpenny room, then, has to be added an average sum of 10s. for food, with about 2s. a week for lunch taken outside—not to be done much under 4d.; light and coal, on an average the year round, about 1s. 6d.; and such extras as a daily bath—often charged at 6d., but got sometimes by contract for 1s. 6d. a week. These items, with boot-cleaning, washing, and the necessary daily 6d. allowance for 'bus or train fares, easily bring the weekly expenditure up to 27s. or 28s. What is left for the purchase of clothes, a daily newspaper, books to read, postage stamps, recreation of any sort, or the expense of going out on a Sunday, in cases where her time is free for the day? It may be necessary once in a way to see a dentist or doctor, but where can these items find a place?

Of course it will be said that there are other ways of living rather than in a single bed-sitting-room in lodgings.

There is, as has been pointed out, the cheap boarding-house where you can live for a guinea a week. There are chambers, furnished and unfurnished; but they are out of the reach of the class to which I refer; and there are various homes or houses, of which I shall presently speak, because they are the approaches to the proposal which I have to make.

To these may be added the cheerful inducement of boarding in a family. One cannot feel that this particular form of residence is very suitable for the serious worker who cannot always have what is called exact office hours, and who, after passing the period of extreme youth, certainly wishes for the independence of her own grate and cruet.

Then, again, there is the lodging in the suburbs—the single lonely room. Living in any circumstances is tolerably cheap in

the suburbs, but the arguments against it for the woman worker far outweigh its advantages. In the first place, it is bad enough for the business man to be inconvenienced by the many accidents due to catching trains in all weathers: it is impossible for her. Apart from other details, the exposure to cold in winter, the uncertainty of weather throughout the day and its effect on her wearing apparel, have to be taken into account; and above all comes the wear and tear on her nervous system from getting to stations through the midst of a London crowd, knowing that a missed train means an irate landlady, and at the least, mental discomfort. It has been suggested that for a woman to live in the suburbs and bicycle to her work and back again is the ideal state of things. It is ideal; for it implies not only the necessary capital for buying a bicycle and paying for its keep, but service under an employer considerate enough to provide housing for the machine during the day, nerves strong enough to ride through the busiest City traffic, and, more than all, a climate working in sympathy with the daily cyclist. I fancy, too, the general opinion amongst women is that the deadly monotony of a single room in suburban surroundings, once she gets back to it at night with the sense of having dropped away from all centres of interest in a busy humanity, adds to her moral depression. It seems to me, then, that living at a distance from the scene of work is poor economy, and that other solutions must be found.

There is still another way of living, and it has been tried by some adventurous women workers. It is the occupation of flats in dwellings intended for the artizan class, at a rental of anything from 7s. 6d. to 13s. a week for two or three tiny rooms and a scullery, with various conveniences in the way of dust shoots and penny-in-the-slot gas arrangements. This plan, however, is generally soon found impossible, apart from the unfairness of occupying a building intended for another class. There is also the perpetual noise, the clamorous babies blocking the stairs, the dirty staircase, the British workman carolling coarsely from the house-tops, or giving occasion for your foolish intervention by throwing his wife downstairs of a Saturday evening. Above all, there is that turbulent and untaxed population that, defying bolts and bars, come out in the honest English night from dishonest and rotten English walls to prey, while you have neither slumber nor sleep.

Lastly, there are the homes, houses, communities, mansions, settlements or chambers for women workers alone, projected, planned, for the convenience of this class.

I have before me now the addresses of various houses in Chelsea, Kensington, Earl's Court, Sloane Street, Bloomsbury, Welbeck Street, Mortimer Street (and other points off Oxford Street), Westbourne Park, Holloway, Pimlico, etc., where it is possible for women to live for an inclusive amount of 12s. 6d., 13s., 14s., or other reasonable sum up to 22s., while the proprietor makes a very fair profit on her business. But these houses are all full, even though the degree of comfort offered is very limited, and sometimes the surroundings painfully sordid.

Here are particulars, taken at random, of a few of the better ones:—

At A——, by taking a cubicle at 4s. 6d., and living on the simplest fare provided, it is possible to exist on 15s. 1d., including a daily bath at 1d. and boot cleaning at  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pair. Residents have besides to supply themselves with all household and table linen. But here there has been no vacancy for many years. This building pays 5 per cent.

At B——, cubicles may be had at 4s. and 5s. a week, with board at 10s. 6d., making the weekly sum 14s. 6d., without any extras such as boot cleaning, baths, etc. But there has been no vacancy for years. It is much overcrowded, the two small houses accommodating about fifty, while half that number have rooms in adjoining houses and go in for meals. Residents provide their own soap, towels and toilet-covers. This house is worked at a profit, though not a large one, as would be the case with larger numbers. It is that founded by Lady Meath of which I have spoken. At this house now many inquirers are turned away daily.

At C——, by sharing a room with three other women, living may be had at 13s. a week; if a room occupied by two people, board and lodging may be had for 14s. and 16s., according to the room. There is no bathroom here, lights are turned out at ten, and there are such rules as the forbidding butter and jam being taken together on one piece of bread; yet the house always has more than its full number, and applicants are turned away at the rate of four and five daily. In this house the best class of women never stay long, owing to the entire want of privacy.

There are also a good many Students' Homes for those studying art, music, medicine, etc., but they are all too expensive for the average woman worker, the common charge being about 30s.

It will be seen that there is a great want to be met. No one will hesitate to admit that there ought to be no portion of the

community working under bitterly disadvantageous conditions. A radical change ought to be made on many grounds. For the poor so much has been done that we seem to be a Société Universelle for making the world comfortable. I venture to say that if most gentlewoman could, without prejudice, have the opportunity for the same comforts extended to them as are granted to the artisan, they would gladly avail themselves of them. Shall less be done for them than for those who are born into poverty; persons of no temperament, satisfied with little, too often ungrateful for attempted improvement? Those who know the conditions of life for professional women, the way in which they spend their days, and especially the non-working hours, know also that they are of the class who endure their miseries in silence. Throughout London, where a demand makes itself felt, as a rule, the supply springs up to meet it—as witness those familiar institutions, the A.B.C., Lockhart's, or Salmon & Gluckstein's, rising like mushrooms wherever people are wanting to eat and to smoke. But in this important matter of living accommodation for a class growing larger, almost doubling, year by year, very little has been done.

For the poor much has been done, and much more is likely to be done. We have had the Peabody Trust to show what can be achieved financially by careful management in undertakings worked on a large scale. The original sum of £500,000 left by Mr George Peabody to provide good and cheap dwellings for the artisan classes, has, in the thirty-three years which have passed, swollen to no less than one million two hundred and twenty odd thousand pounds, showing a profit of over £720,000. In some cases quite half the rents is clear profit—which is perhaps not quite according to the intention of the testator—but the work is spreading, and the profits are being applied greatly to the increase of habitation. Then we have the County Council's houses, which are yet within the bounds of experiment only.

And, lastly, we have the Rowton Houses, where men may sleep and live very well for 10s. a week. Cubicles are 6d. a night, and their occupants buy what they want, being allowed to cook anything, as well as wash anything they like, free of charge.

That the housing of people on a large scale can be made to pay, and at the same time satisfy a great need, is, I think, proved by this well-known work of Lord Rowton's. When he resolved to risk an initial £30,000 on improved cheap lodgings for men,

he was warned on all hands that he would lose his money. In face of all opposition, however, he persevered, with the result that the half-dozen years' experiment is producing something a good deal above 5 per cent.; that four establishments accommodating up to six and eight hundred men are now in existence, and that two more sites are in contemplation. That Lord Rowton has made a great success even John Burns admits. Rowton Houses have been going on since 1892, and it is no small element in the matter that they pay a handsome dividend.

I am strongly of the belief that a building of a better class, with living of a better class, of course, to accommodate four hundred educated women, should be made to pay well.

In the general moralisation of our civic life, in the advancing feeling of responsibility possessing the whole scheme of modern existence, it is important that the educated working woman should not become demoralised by haphazard care for what concerns her character, her mind, and the housing of her body. Upon that high ground it is surely our duty as citizens to give all our moral influence and our practical sympathy to any wise scheme that makes for a good standard of comfort in private life.

Now, I have a plan to propose. But let me first say that my position is that of an inquirer facing hard facts, only concerned to show the need upon the one hand, and the necessity for supplying that need upon the other—at a financial profit. I want to make it clear that no shadow of charity darkens this scheme; it includes no suggestion of free sites or voluntary contributions. I am convinced that anything of that kind would at once estrange the class whose interests we are considering. It is essential that ordinary business principles be applied to the exploitation and conduct of a scheme which belongs to the business of life, which is intended to be part of the civic plan. It is important that profit may accrue; that dividends may cheer the heart of the practical altruist. The strength of the edifice and the permanency of the institution I would establish depend on its standing on a sound commercial basis, and in appealing to the financier one must be able to show a satisfactory return on capital. There is no other way. But in this case it would not be merely romantic to promise a return of at least 5 per cent. on one only of the several mansions which should be erected to meet the increasing demand of this considerable portion of our population.

As I have suggested, the first house to be built would be of

a size to accommodate four hundred professionally employed women. To succeed it must be on a large scale. The principles on which it should be run would be practically those of a large private hotel for permanent guests paying a weekly sum for board and lodging. I should propose to eliminate from the scheme the restaurant idea. It has never worked to satisfaction. I may as well say here, too, that the ideal aim would be to secure for the individual woman freedom and independence, with only those fitting and natural restraints customary in well-regulated institutions which provide professional hospitality; but there should be no vexatious rules and humiliating restrictions. While reasonable regulations are necessary, it is absurd to suppose that those who may have been living for years in self-respecting freedom—either in single rooms, small solitary flats, or other isolated circumstances—will bear with equanimity any attempt at enforced personal “management.” But at the same time it should be the duty of every resident to assist, as in a club, in the maintenance of standard and decorum, according to the suggestions of the management.

Roughly and broadly, these are the principles which animate my scheme. Now let us take the arithmetical and architectural view, as it were.

As to sites. The mansions, or whatever they may be called, should be situated in a central part of London—such as Westminster or Bloomsbury (the neighbourhood of Victoria Street being an especially desirable point), but not, at an outside limit, further than a twopenny fare from the chief business districts. I am well aware of the difficulty of obtaining sites in so central a part as Westminster, but they are to be had. The nature of the soil, as well as the site, of course, affects the price of building, sandy, gravelly soil being not only more healthy, but more economical than any other, as the material excavated in that case is used for concrete, etc., instead of being carted away at considerable expense. The buildings would, of course, have to be arranged architectually in each case to suit the sites acquired—a quadrangular form being preferable, the inner square lined with white glazed bricks for the reflection of light. They should be plain and simple in design, though of what the architect would call a “pleasing elevation”; and the finishings generally should be of a durable character, so as to leave as little as possible in the way of repair or decoration, except washing down or distempering every few years. The sanitary arrangements would

be perfected on the latest known principles, and the building would be warmed by means of boilers in the basement, and hot-water pipes and radiators throughout. Lighting would be by electricity, in the interests of health, cleanliness and saving of labour. There should be eight or ten bathrooms on each of the floors, with ample lavatory accommodation on the ground floor for a hasty wash before meals. The baths would be arranged side by side on the Public Baths system, with matchwood partitions between, and open at the top. The residential part of the house should consist of 400 bedrooms. There would be 280 small single rooms, 70 of a larger size, and 50 double bedrooms, with one large dining-hall, two or three drawing-rooms, a reading-room, and half a dozen or more small sitting-rooms. Each bedroom would have a recess made in the wall for a hanging cupboard, and shelving to as great an extent as possible, for I am told that "having nowhere to put her things" is one of the real discomforts endured in ordinary circumstances by a woman living in lodgings. The floor would be either of blocks of oak, stained boards, or plain deal covered with the light and economical cork carpet. A few bookshelves, the necessary small sofa-bed, combined dressing-table and chest of drawers, washstand and chairs would be provided. It would be at the option of the tenant to add rugs or such small luxuries at her own expense, and to turn her little sleeping apartment into a sanctum after the pattern of Newnham or Girton.

All wall-papers and paint should be kept as light as possible, and the cheering effects of yellow obtained wherever practicable ; no effort being spared to secure tasteful and attractive surroundings with due moral effect.

The building should have a house for storing bicycles at a small charge, where they could be cleaned as required at a contract price. Boxes also could be stored at a nominal charge.

Many small details, such as the extinction or otherwise of lights, provision of bells in bedrooms, etc., must be left for definite arrangements later ; but it should be understood that all reasonable convenience for the tenants would exist.

In the same way the matter of closing doors should be so arranged that the tenant would have freedom with license, the house being conducted in this respect as are any reputable West End chambers, where, after certain hours, the tenant, on ringing the bell, is admitted by the night porter.

In the matter of payment, probably the fairest arrangement

would be that the rents of rooms should be payable monthly in advance, whilst the charge for food, etc., should be settled weekly.

As the mansions are intended solely for the benefit of women workers, no one living entirely on private means shall be eligible for admission. While 25s. and 30s. are here mentioned as average salaries, it is not meant that those earning twice as much may not also claim accommodation ; the possessor of £3 or £4 a week often has more demands on her income than the less well paid. All applications should be accompanied by good references, and the manager, in whose hands would lie the power of refusing unsuitable applicants, would personally interview intending residents.

This brings me to the point of saying that the manager, as will be plain to all, must be the right woman in the right place. It is not easy to secure in one person all the qualities alike of head and heart which go to make the ideal manager for this difficult post ; but she exists and good work is waiting for her. Success for the first undertaking would to a very great extent rest with her, and from her careful observation and intelligent reports the future development of the system would be made easy.

A housekeeper, who should also be a lady of much experience, would take charge of the practical part of management as to catering, etc.

Now as to rents and the expense of living.

The building, as has been stated, should be divided into 450 rooms, including 70 double bedrooms for the use of sisters or friends who prefer sharing ; 50 single bedrooms of a fairly good size ; and 280 small bedrooms ; also one large dining-hall, 2 or 3 drawing-rooms and some half a dozen sitting-rooms, which could be hired temporarily by anyone wishing to entertain visitors. The remaining rooms would be occupied by the management, with linen rooms, store rooms, etc.

Now, the 70 double bedrooms should be rented at 8s. per week, the 50 at 7s. 6d., and the smaller rooms at 5s. apiece, with the free use of the dining and drawing-rooms ; and, according to application, the small sitting-rooms for receiving private friends at a charge, say, of 1s. or 1s. 6d. a time.

It will be seen that the rent of the small single rooms—which are a vast majority—is 5s. a week. I have calculated the living expenses outside as that of 10s. a week ; that is, a tenant

earning a salary of 25s. would, outside of her board and lodging, have 10s. a week wherewith to pay any outside charges, to clothe herself, and provide numberless enjoyments, and so on. My analysis of that 10s. for board is, roughly, upon this basis:—

	s. d.
Seven breakfasts at 3½d.	2 0½
Six dinners at 8d. and one (Sunday) at 10d., with tea or coffee to follow,	4 10
Extra meal on Sunday,	0 6
	<hr/>
Leaving, for use of baths, linen, lights, heating and general service,	7 4½
	2 7½
	<hr/>
	10 0

Now, of course, this scheme resolves itself into a boarding-house system, but a boarding-house system with a difference. Of course, the objection is raised that in the boarding system a lady may at times require to pay for meals which she does not eat, but I would point out that the scale of charges here has been arranged with a view to such occasional absences. In any case, the charge of 10s. is low, and levied all round on 400 people, a greater general degree of comfort is obtained for all. In this way, too, all temptation to economise by dining outside on a bun and a cup of tea is removed, and the general health of workers improved by nourishing food. In order also to study as much as possible the convenience of those whose hours of work are irregular and who find it impossible to get home in time for the 7 o'clock dinner, it could be arranged that late-comers might have some light and quickly-cooked dish made ready for them at any time up to 8.30 or 9 o'clock, as might be fixed.

Lunch, or afternoon tea, would, of course, be supplied at a moderate charge for any left in the house during the day, who are but a small percentage, and glasses of milk or other small items provided to meet any demand, but there is no reason why any tenant should not make her own lunch or tea in her room with a spirit stove, washing her own cup or plate.

It is not necessary to say that there are many other matters which could with no difficulty be arranged for the convenience and comfort of the tenant, such, for instance, as keeping a professional mender or two, or three working dressmakers, as

might be required, on the premises, as I understand most professional women would gladly pay so much an hour to anyone for repairing and mending, that they might have more of their scanty leisure to give to correspondence or reading. With such a large number, too, it might be thought advisable to have a trained nurse living on the premises.

While the first object in sight in planning for a large community is certainly based on principles of financial success, it seems to me that direct benefit to the educated working woman and her class would be large. Aside from the *esprit de corps*, the general standard of knowledge regarding woman's work would be raised, and the attrition of ideas would only result in larger views. But before everything there would be a place of residence where freedom and comfort together could be had at a price within the means of all.

One striking thing remains to say: the managers of small houses already existing for educated working women, so far from resenting, court competition. Having had their own houses full to the door for years past, and refusing fresh applicants every day, they realise, as no outsider can, that "there is cloth at the market for all." The secretary of the largest existing house said personally to me the other day that on starting they were assured on all hands that it was impossible to carry out the scheme on even self-supporting lines; but they have been paying a dividend of 5 per cent. for the last seven or eight years. Having shown that it can be done, they are only too willing that others should benefit by their mistakes and be encouraged by their success.

At the close of the paper the President expressed the thanks of the Council to Mr Parker for his valuable paper, and announced that a large number of speakers had sent in their names for the discussion, but as the time allotted for the meeting had already elapsed she feared it would be impossible to ask them to address the meeting. She would therefore suggest two resolutions, one recommending National Councils to make inquiry concerning the matter in the cities of their respective countries, and another requesting her to convene another meeting at a later date, when Mr Parker could be present, and when there would be time really to discuss the subject. Both suggestions were acted upon, and the resolutions were carried unanimously, after which the meeting closed.

## Financial Report of the International Congress of Women.

ONE of the first questions with which the Sub-Committee of Arrangements—deputed by the International Executive to carry out the details of the organisation of the International Congress of Women—had to deal, was that of Finance. The Quinquennial Fees paid by the National Councils are required for the routine business of the International Council.

The Sub-Committee, in October 1898, appointed a Finance Committee, on which the following ladies consented to serve:—Mrs Alfred Booth, Convener; Dowager Lady Westbury, Lady Montague, Lady Roberts-Austen, Mrs George Cadbury, Mrs Charles McLaren, Mrs Bedford Fenwick, who was subsequently elected Honorary Treasurer of the International Congress Fund, and Miss Margaret Breay as Honorary Secretary.

### THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FUND.

It was decided to raise a special Fund to defray the expenses of the Congress; it being expected that 2000 persons might attend the Congress, and the expenses on this basis were estimated by the Treasurer at about £1000.

As time went on, however, it was found that the original estimates had not been sufficiently sanguine; for the great interest which was exhibited in the Congress, both at home and abroad, made it evident that much larger numbers than had been expected would be present at the meetings. So arrangements were made for the attendance of at least 3000 persons. In every direction, therefore, an increased expenditure became necessary. Finally, however, upwards of 5000 persons attended the Congress, 1715 tickets having been sold at 7s. 6d.; 716 at 5s.; and 2176 at 1s. Besides these, Complimentary and Platform Tickets were given to all members of Sub-Committees, to the Lady Stewards, and to eminent experts



MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK

*Treasurer for the International Congress Fund; Representative of  
Baroness A. Gripenberg as Treasurer for the International Council  
on the Sub-Committee of Arrangements; Convener of the  
Professional Sectional Committee.*

(Photo by Lafayette Ltd.)



in various branches of work, whose attendance was of great value to the Congress.

And it was also found that a much larger number of shilling tickets could have been disposed of, because the meetings were almost invariably so crowded that it was necessary to limit the admittance of the public, for the safety and comfort of the Members of Congress.

#### DONATIONS.

One hundred and ninety-two donations were received, making a total of £670, 8s. 6d. The total sum of £200 was guaranteed by thirty-one ladies. Two hundred and eight persons, in all, thus gave, or were prepared to give their valuable financial support to the Congress, and by their generosity made it possible to organise and carry through the Congress to its most successful termination.

#### OFFICE EXPENSES.

The International Congress Fund shared the office of the International Council of Women from 1st December 1898 to the 22nd July 1899, during which time the office expenditure, including clerical work, amounted to £255, 15s. 7d.—a fact which seems to deserve notice and commendation. But this result was only attained because the work of all the Sub-Committees and Honorary Secretaries was performed gratuitously, and often at considerable personal expense to those ladies, to whom the Congress was deeply indebted.

The hire of halls to seat upwards of 3000 persons was naturally a large item of expenditure.

At Westminster Town Hall, the headquarters of the Congress, three public halls provided seats for 1000. Here also were arranged rest, writing, and cloak-rooms; the International Office; an Enquiry Office; and press, post and book-rooms.

At St Martin's Town Hall, two halls seated 900. There were also provided rest, press and book-rooms.

At The Church House, the large hall provided seats for 1300. A combined book and press-room was arranged, in addition to these, for the ordinary meetings.

The large Queen's Hall was hired for the Public Arbitration Meeting, and the Passmore Edwards' Hall for the Girls' Meeting.

**PRINTING.**

The large sum of £643, 7s. 8d. spent on printing must be divided into the preliminary expenses of organising the Congress, which cost £343, 7s. 8d., and the cost of printing and publishing the papers and tracitions of the Congress—the Sub-Committee of Arrangements having voted and set aside an inclusive grant of £300 for the latter purpose.

As to the sum of £343, 7s. 8d., it must be realised that the international nature of the Congress necessarily increased expenditure under this heading to a very large extent. Many thousands of items of printed matter were sent all over the world, notifying to the National Councils of Women affiliated to the International Council the details and scope of the Congress, and also to the women of numerous other countries where Councils do not yet exist.

The fact that the following nations and colonies were officially represented at the Congress proves the wide distribution of the official literature of the Congress:—Great Britain and Ireland, The United States, Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, West Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Cape Colony, India, Germany, France, Russia, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, China, Persia, Palestine, and the Argentine Republic.

This item also includes the expense of issuing the comprehensive handbook of the Congress, the pamphlet of places of interest to visitors, and the present financial report.

**POSTAGE.**

Again, the international nature of the Congress necessitated a large expenditure in postage, telegrams and cables.

**ADVERTISING.**

Advertising was chiefly effected by direct methods, such as the distribution of large numbers of pamphlets and programmes, etc., through the Women's Societies, so that the sum of £73, 18s. represents the amount spent in advertising the date and arrangements of the Congress in English and Foreign Press.

**SUB-COMMITTEES' EXPENSES.**

The five Sectional Committees, and four Sub-Committees, were each staffed by an Honorary Convener and Honorary Secretary, and to these Committees was delegated the detailed organisation of the various departments of the Congress. When it is remembered that the onerous duties of these Committees extended over more than six months, the modest sums charged to the Congress for summoning meetings, correspondence, providing books, etc., prove that most of the large expense necessarily incurred was defrayed by members of these Committees. Indeed, it should here be pointed out that the honorary work done, and the personal expenditure paid by the Conveners, Honorary Secretaries, and members of the Sub-Committees, must be taken into consideration in estimating the actual cost of the Congress, and cannot be assessed at less than £200.

**HOSPITALITY.**

It must also be understood that owing to the energy of those ladies who composed the Hospitality Committee, not only was a large sum of money contributed towards the fund, but the most generous hospitality was offered to all the foreign guests who cared to avail themselves of it, while the splendid entertainments given during the Congress week were all arranged irrespective of the Congress Fund.

Compared with the large numbers attending the Congress, the many meetings held, and the amount of work accomplished, the facts which have been mentioned appear to be noteworthy, not only in order to explain the comparatively small expenditure shown in the audited accounts, but also as a matter of justice to those ladies who have given such invaluable aid in making the Congress so successful.

**SURPLUS FUNDS.**

It is a matter for sincere congratulation that the audited balance sheet shows a surplus of more than £100, and this

without calling up the Guarantee Fund, and that the Sub-Committee of Arrangements is therefore enabled to hand over this sum as a gift to the Treasury of the International Council of Women, under whose authority the Congress was convened.

ISHBEL ABERDEEN,

*President.*

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK,

*Honorary Treasurer,  
International Congress Fund.*

#### LIST OF GUARANTORS.

Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, The Lady Battersea, Lady Grey, Lady Burdon-Sanderson, Lady Roberts-Austen, Mrs Boden, Mrs Jacob Bright, Miss Wilbanke Childers, Mrs George Darwin, Mrs Elizabeth Garrett, Miss Edith Gittins, Mrs R. E. Haslam, Mrs Hazzledine, Miss E. S. Liddett, Manchester and Salford Branch, National Union of Women Workers, Mrs Thomas Lowe, Miss Isabel Marshall, Mrs Martindale, Mrs Peard, Miss P. E. Pirie, Mrs Rawlinson, Mrs Arthur Scaife, Mrs Siemens, Mrs F. S. Stevenson, Miss Anna Swanwick, Mrs Anstruther Thompson, Mrs Tubbs, Mrs Walter Ward, Hon. Mrs Wilkinson, Miss F. R. Wilkinson, Mrs J. Wilson.

#### LIST OF DONATIONS.

Aberdeen, The Countess of	£10	0	0	Brought forward,	£72	7	0
Acland, Right Hon. A.				Benson, Mrs		5	0
H. D.	1	1	0	Berry, Dr May Dickenson	2	2	0
Andrews, Mrs L.	1	1	0	Blatch, Mrs Stanton	2	2	0
Arbuthnot, Mrs Foster	3	0	0	Boddy, Miss Clarinda	1	1	0
Austen, Lady Roberts-	25	0	0	Bolton, Mrs Annie H.	5	0	0
Bailey, Mrs Hannah	10	0	0	Booth, Mrs Alfred	20	0	0
Barrett, Mrs Layland	2	2	0	Boulnois, Mrs H. Percy	1	1	0
Bateson, Mrs	3	3	0	Boxall, Mrs B. W.	0	5	0
Bateson, Mrs Anna	5	0	0	Boys, Mrs		1	1
Bateson, Mrs Margaret	1	1	0	Breay, Miss Margaret		1	1
Battersea, The Lady	5	0	0	Bright, Mrs Jacob		2	0
Baynes, Lady	0	10	0	Bright, Mrs Samuel		1	1
Beeby, Mrs Eleanor	0	5	0	Brooke, Mrs		1	0
Beeby, Mrs J. H.	1	0	0	Brunner, Lady		9	12
Beer, Mrs Frederick	1	1	0	Bryce, Mrs James		1	1
Bell, Mrs Hugh	2	2	0	Bunting, Mrs Percy		2	2
Beneke, Mrs	1	1	0	Busk, Miss		1	0
Carry forward,	£72	7	0	Carry forward,	£128	16	6

Brought forward, . . .	£128 16 6	Brought forward, . . .	£268 16 6
Buxton, The Lady Victoria	2 2 0	Haalem, Mrs R. E.	10 0 0
Cadbury, Mrs George	10 0 0	Henderson, The Misses	1 0 0
Canziani, Mme. Louisa		Hoare, Miss Beatrice	2 0 0
Starr	5 5 0	Hobhouse, Lady	1 2 0
Catchpool, Miss Agnes	0 10 6	Hogg, Mrs E.	1 1 0
Clapperton, Miss Jane H.	1 1 0	Horton, Miss Rodber	1 1 0
	0 5 0	Houldsworth, Miss	1 0 3
Cockran, Miss "	1 1 0	Huntingdon, Mrs	5 5 0
Coit, Mrs Stanton	5 0 0	Huxley, Miss Margaret	5 0 0
Cooke, Mrs Russell	5 5 0	Jebb, Mrs	1 1 0
Coomaraswamy, Lady	0 10 0	Joicey, Lady	30 0 0
Cooper, Miss A. T.	0 10 0	Jones, Mrs Brynmor	1 1 0
Corbett, Mrs Marie	0 15 0	Jones, Miss H. M.	3 3 0
Craven, Mrs Conybeare	0 12 6	Kay, Mrs, and Drummond,	
Crawfurd, Miss Pearce	1 1 0	Miss	1 15 0
Creighton, Mrs	5 0 0	King, The Misses	1 1 0
Dale, Lady	1 1 0	King, Miss Mead	0 10 0
Darwin, Mrs George	1 0 0	Law, Mrs Louisa	1 0 0
Davidson, Mrs Mackenzie	5 0 0	Lees, Mrs C.	5 0 0
D'Ivanoff, Her Excell-		Leicester Branch, National	
ency Zénéide	0 10 6	Union of Women	
Dixon, Mrs	1 0 0	Workers	2 2 0
Donelan, Miss	0 10 6	Lidderdale, Mrs William	2 2 0
Eve, Miss M. A.	1 0 0	Lidgett, Miss E. S.	2 2 0
Farquharson, Mrs, of		Lough, Mrs	1 1 0
Haughton	2 0 0	Lowe, Mrs Thomas	1 1 0
Farrer, Lady	5 0 0	Macdonald, Mr and Mrs	
Fenwick, Dr and Mrs		J. R.	2 2 0
Bedford	25 0 0	M'Dougall, Mrs John	10 0 0
Ford, Miss Isabella	1 0 0	M'Laren, Mrs Charles	20 0 0
Fordyce, Mrs Dingwall	1 0 0	M'Laren, Mrs Priscilla	
Franklin, Mrs	1 1 0	Bright	5 5 0
Franklin, Mrs E. L.	1 1 0	M'Laren, Mrs Walter	1 1 0
Fraser, Miss A.	0 5 0	Mair, Mrs	1 0 0
"Friend, A"	10 10 0	Mallet, Mrs	1 0 0
"F. M. G."	0 10 0	Marks, Mrs Alfred	1 1 0
Garrett, Mrs.	1 1 0	Marshall, Miss Louisa	1 0 0
Gittings, Miss M. C.	1 1 0	Martindale, Mrs	1 1 0
Gladstone, Dr E. H.	5 5 0	Methven, Mrs Jessie C.	0 5 0
Gordon, Mrs Robert	5 5 0	Meyer, Mrs Carl	4 5 0
Gossage, Mrs F. H.	10 0 0	Mond, Mrs Ludwig	5 0 0
Greenlees, Mrs	1 1 0	Montague, Lady	5 5 0
Grey, Lady	3 0 0	Morgan, Mrs Vaughan	2 0 0
Grosmith, Mrs George	1 1 0	Mountford, Mrs von	
Gurney, Miss Mary	1 0 0	Finkelstein	1 1 0
Hamley, Miss Barbara	2 0 0	Muspratt, Mrs E. K.	5 0 0
Hancock, Mrs Charles	10 0 0	Newgass, Mrs	1 1 0
Hart, Mrs D'Arcy	0 10 0	Oblein, Mrs	2 2 0
Haslam, Mrs W.	2 0 0	Olroyd, Mrs Mark	1 1 0
Carry forward, . . .	£268 16 6	Carry forward, . . .	£419 14 9

Brought forward, £419 14 9			Brought forward, £567 16 3		
Osterberg, Mme. Berg-			Stirling, Mrs H. A.	1	0
man	10	10	Stuart, Mrs	10	0
Overton, Mrs A. M.	1	1	Stuart, Mrs Laura	2	0
Palmer, Mrs	5	0	Sturge, Miss E.	0	12
Peard, Mrs	1	1	Swan, Mrs G. W.	3	0
Pease, Mrs Helen M.	8	0	Swanick, Miss Anna	5	0
Perugini, Mrs	1	10	Swanick, Miss S. W.	0	5
Pioneer Club, Nos. 164			Taylor, Mrs Cook	1	0
and 165	0	5	Thompson, Mrs Anstruther	1	1
Pochin, Mrs Agnes	20	0	Tinker, Mrs James	0	10
Prescott, Mr H. W.	10	0	Trevelyan, Lady	10	0
Prescott, Miss Oliveria	2	0	Tubbs, Mrs F. Cecilia	10	0
Purdie, Mrs	3	0	Tweedie, Mrs Alec	1	1
Purdie, Mrs, University			Unwin, Mrs Cobden		
St Andrews, Fife	1	0	Fisher	1	1
Putnam, Mrs C. R.	1	1	Unwin, Mrs George	2	2
Rawlinson, Mrs	5	0	Ward, Mr Reginald	5	0
Reid, Miss Elizabeth	3	10	Webb, Mrs Sidney	1	0
Reid, Miss Emily	1	10	Wedderburn, Sir William	4	12
Rendel, Lady	5	0	Westbury, Dowager Lady	5	0
Riddings, The Lady Laura	20	0	Wilkinson, Miss F. R.	5	5
Rivington, Miss Christine			Wilson, Mrs Carus	1	0
M.	0	7	Wilson, Miss Edith A.	1	0
Roberts, The Lady Cecilia	0	10	Wilson, Mrs E.	2	2
Roberts, Miss Dorothea	0	7	Wilson, Mr and Mrs		
Rutson, Mrs A.	1	0	Henry J.	5	0
Rylands, Mrs	10	0	Winkworth, Mrs	10	0
Samuel, Mrs Beatrice	2	0	Winthorpe, Mrs	0	10
Schwann, Mrs	5	0	Women's Co-operative		
Scott, Miss Amelia	1	1	Guild	1	1
Seligman, Mrs	2	2	Woods, Miss Alice	0	10
Shaw, Mrs Bernard	3	3	Wrightson, M.P., Mr		
Siemens, Mrs	2	10	Thomas	3	3
Sparkes, Miss L. D.	0	5	Yorke, Hon. Mrs Eliot	0	12
Spencer, Mrs Walter	1	1	Collection at Westmin-		
Spicer, Mrs	3	3	ster Abbey, per Miss		
Spicer, Mrs Alfred	3	0	Emily Jane	5	19
Stevenson, Lady	5	0	Surplus Stafford House		
Stevenson, Mrs F. S.	5	0	Fund, per Mrs Mac-		
Stevenson, Misses Louisa			kenzie Davidson	1	12
and Flora	3	3		3	
Stewart, Miss Isla.	5	0			
Carry forward,				£670	8 6

## THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FUND OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FROM JANUARY to JULY 1899.

RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
To Donations . . . . .	£670 8 6
" Sale of Tickets—	
1716 at 7s. 6d. each	£648 2 6
716 at 5s. "	179 0 0
2173 at 1s. "	108 16 0
<u>4607 Total Number Sold</u>	<u>830 18 6</u>
<u>59 Complimentary</u>	
<u>4668</u>	
" Sale of Handbooks . . . . .	£70 16 4
" " Other Books . . . . .	2 8 6
<u>    " Advertisements—</u>	<u>73 4 10</u>
In Handbook . . . . .	£19 18 9
Table Space in Book Room . . . . .	17 10 0
<u>    " " " Advertising</u>	<u>37 3 9</u>
<u>    " " " Table Space in Book Room</u>	
By Hire of Halls . . . . .	£200 11 0
" Rent of Offices . . . . .	63 10 0
" Hire of Furniture . . . . .	8 0 0
" Honorarium and Bonuses . . . . .	75 0 0
" Secretarial Help . . . . .	147 10 9
" Printing (General) . . . . .	£343 7 8
" Printing of Transactions . . . . .	300 0 0
<u>    " Stationery . . . . .</u>	<u>643 7 8</u>
" Advertising . . . . .	73 18 0
" Postage, Telegraphs, Cables and Exchange of Foreign Monies . . . . .	62 18 11
" Parcels, Fares, Messengers and Tips . . . . .	33 17 11
" Office Expenses—Including Lighting . . . . .	10 6 11
" Interpreting . . . . .	60 0 0
" Translating Papers . . . . .	14 8 0
" Official Badges . . . . .	2 16 6
" Stewards' Expenses . . . . .	14 8 0
" Decorations of Halls, etc. . . . .	67 4 6
" Commissions . . . . .	14 14 4
" Expenses of Sub-Committees:—Educational, £4, 0s. 10d. . . . .	8 10 9
" Political, £1 ; Industrial, £1, 1s.	15 16 10
" Social, £2 ; Literature, £4, 13s. ; Hospitality to Foreign Guests, £20 ; Girls' Section, 5s. 6d.	39 18 8
" Grant towards Expenses of Organisation of Arbitration Meeting . . . . .	16 0 0
" Audit Fee . . . . .	6 6 0
<u>    " Cash at Bankers . . . . .</u>	<u>£1711 15 7</u>

Examined, compared with the Books and Vouchers, and found correct.

**M. HARRIS SMITH, Auditor  
(Public Accountant).**

13 VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER,  
LONDON. JUNE 1890.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE ARBITRATION MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE—JUNE TO JULY 1899.

RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
To Donations towards Expenses	£25 5 5
" Donation from Peace Society, per Dr Darby	By Hire of Queen's Hall
" (being Account incurred to the Society for	" Attendants, Firemen and Police
" Posting Tickets and Circulars, etc.)	" Advertising and Printing—
	Advertising in Newspapers £14 12 10
	Do. by Boardmen 3 0 0
	Account to Piece Society for
	Posting Tickets and Circulars, etc.
	Do. 6 17 0
	Posting of Placards, 0 7 6
	Posting of Circulars, etc., by
	Women's Liberal Association 1 7 9
	Translating and Typing Foreign
	Letters 2 1 0
	Printing of Cards, Circulars,
	Head-bills, etc. 19 17 0
	" Secretarial Expenses, including Fee to Man-
	outside Queen's Hall, Typing of Enve-
	lopes, Postages, etc. 6 10 9
	" Balance in hand 0 17 3
	£85 6 1

Examined compared with the vouchers, and found correct.

C. G. SMITH,  
The Mains, Haddo House, Aberdeen.

September 1889.





MRS. MACKENZIE DAVIDSON.

*Hon. Sec. of the Hospitality Sectional Committee, and Convener of the  
Stafford House Sub-Committee.*

(Reproduced from the "Englishwoman.")

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**LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO THE QUEEN'S HALL  
ARBITRATION MEETING.**

(1) Mrs Alfred Illingworth, Daisy Bank, Bradford, Yorks,	£10 0 0
(2) Peace Society (Sec., Dr Evans-Darby, 47 New Broad Street, London, E.C.),	6 17 0
(3) Samuel Cooke, Esq., City Liberal Club, Walbrook, E.C.,	5 5 0
(4) Croydon Peace Union (Sec., Mrs Kolah, Suntrays, Croydon),	5 0 0
(5) Mrs Keightley, Wildwood, Hampstead, N.W.,	3 0 0
(6) Mrs Knight, 54 Stanhope Gardens, S.W.,	2 0 0
 Total, . . . .	 £32 2 0

**Report on the Hospitality Arrangements  
for the International Council and  
Congress.**

**Mrs Mackenzie Davidson, Hon. Secretary of the Hospitality Committee.**

A RECORD of the International Congress of Women would be incomplete without a word being said about the hospitality so generously offered to the members of Congress, and more especially to the foreign delegates. The Hospitality Sub-Committee had many meetings and much deliberation as to the very best way of giving comfort and pleasure to those coming from distant lands, and a spirit of enthusiasm entered into the work which was well sustained by the inspiring presence of Lady Aberdeen at most of the meetings.

To secure hospitality for some hundreds of delegates of various nationalities seemed formidable at the first outlook, but a plan was adopted by the committee which had excellent results in obtaining the necessary invitations.

Members of the various committees were asked to make lists of ladies whom they knew, or whom they knew of as being in a position to be possible hostesses, and to send these lists either to Lady Roberts-Austen, President, or Mrs Mackenzie Davidson,

Honorary Secretary of the Hospitality Sub-Committee. Formal application was then made to every lady whose name had been given in, asking if she would be willing to extend hospitality to one or more delegates during the Congress, and inquiring if there was any preference as to nationality, etc. The kind response to this appeal enabled the committee to offer an invitation to some private house in London to each individual delegate to the Congress. It is pleasant to know that this generous spirit of hospitality was not confined to any one section of society. But this was by no means all that had to be arranged.

There were large and small entertainments to be thought of, and although those giving private ones as a rule undertook to send out their own invitations, there was the deciding as to time, date, etc.

The Hospitality Committee had also to arrange for the Opening Meeting of the Congress, and as many besides members of Congress wished to hear the Presidential Address, and as the sale of Congress tickets was, at that date, even far greater than all one's pre-conceived ideas, it was with some difficulty that enough room was provided for the audience.

A special Reception Committee was formed from members of the Hospitality Sub-Committee to carry out all the arrangements for the reception at Stafford House, including the sending out of invitations and arrangements for refreshments, cloak-rooms, etc. It was a great satisfaction to this Committee that the sum realised by the sale of the 600 admission cards sold at 5s. each met the expenses involved. The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland not only lent their beautiful house, but contributed all flowers, decorations, music, and the expenses of waiters.

Lady Battersea's reception at Surrey House on June 28th gave particular pleasure to the delegates because, by the kind thought of their hostess, they met many noted people with whose names they were familiar.

It would take too long to say all that one might about the many entertainments so generously given—they are enumerated in the Handbook, pages 28 to 33. There were *Garden Parties* at Fulham Palace by the Bishop of London and Mrs Creighton, and at Gunnersbury Park by Lady Rothschild and Mrs Leopold de Rothschild (said to be the finest ever given in England); Luncheon at Cassiobury Park by the Countess of Aberdeen; Tea and Dinner on the Terrace of the House of Commons by Mr Carew, M.P., and Mr Lough, M.P., and others; Tea at St

Bartholomew's Hospital; At Homes on the terrace of the National Liberal Club and at 125 Queen's Gate by Mr and Mrs Charles Hancock; At Home by Mrs Frederick Beer to Journalists; Reception by Mrs Yerburgh, 25 Kensington Gardens. Several London Clubs were At Home to the delegates, and there were many small parties among the various coteries—artistic, socialistic, literary, political, as the case might be—to which the delegates were individually attracted. The Norland Institute received a number of guests, and the National School of Cookery provided excellent luncheons and teas for 20 of the visitors during the Congress.

Sir Richard Temple invited two house parties of ladies at a time to his beautiful country place, "The Nash," near Worcester. Mr Arnold Hills invited members of the Congress to an excursion on the river.

Everything seemed to go happily—from the opening reception at Stafford House, where the Duchess of Sutherland and our President, the Countess of Aberdeen, welcomed the guests, amidst surroundings worthy of the inauguration of a Congress which had throughout a tone so elevating and helpful, to the last reception given by Lady Aberdeen, when hearts had been knit closer and many warm and lasting friendships had been made by those who might never have met but for the Congress.

There was then only one thing wanting that could add to the gratification of the foreign delegates. They had met at the different entertainments those of our leading men and women whose names were well known to them, but what would they not give to see our Queen, whose name was a household one in their countries for all that was womanly and true. It was a happy moment for our President, Lady Aberdeen, when she was able to announce that Her Majesty had graciously agreed to receive the foreign delegates at Windsor on July 5th. Few who were privileged to be present that afternoon will forget the sight, and the impression left on the hearts of our guests will last for ever.

In closing this short statement *re* the Hospitality Committee I should like to say that there were many things that could be done better another time; indeed, perhaps one of the greatest benefits of the Congress has been the added experience it has given for future organisation.

## The Entertainments of the Congress.

By **Mrs Arthur Scaife.**

MUCH might be written of the hospitality extended to the International Congress of Women, but members of Congress who attended those brilliant receptions and gay garden parties, those delightful luncheons and teas, and the many other forms of entertainment so hospitably provided by a large number of hostesses for their amusement and relaxation, will scarcely need to be reminded of the details which, for want of space, can be but lightly touched upon in this short sketch. These memories will be inspiring as well as pleasant.

The official entertainments were inaugurated on Monday evening, June 26, by a Reception, by the International Council, at Stafford House, by the kindness of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland.

The Duchess of Sutherland and the Countess of Aberdeen received the guests at the foot of the grand staircase. The Countess of Warwick was also present. After presentation to their hostesses, the guests, who numbered over a thousand, ranged themselves in the galleries overlooking the staircase and in the lobby at the side to watch the progress of the reception, and thus lent additional effect of colour and movement to a very charming and animated scene.

The evening was thoroughly enjoyable, for in addition to the interest of watching the gay throng, of inspecting the beautiful house, the wonderful pictures, of listening to the music of the Blue Hungarian Band, there was the joy of meeting old friends and the pleasure of making new ones.

This inaugural reception did much to strengthen the bond between people of all ranks and nationalities, whether actual workers in the great movement or merely interested as lookers-on.

On Wednesday evening, June 28, Lady Battersea gave an evening reception to the delegates and invited speakers at Surrey House, Marble Arch, when the delegates had yet another opportunity of visiting a beautiful London home. The reception-rooms were thrown open, so that the guests could wander through them at will, into the corridors hung with renowned masterpieces by Rubens, Tintoretto, Van Heere and others. On



THE DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND.

*Hostess of the International Council and Congress of Women at the  
Evening Reception at Stafford House, Monday, June 26th, 1899.*

Photo by Bullingham.)

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the top of the staircase, where Lord and Lady Battersea received their guests, hangs Sir Edward Burne-Jones's celebrated picture, "Golden Stairs," which was specially admired. The Chinese delegate to the Women's Congress, Mme. Shen, was a charming little lady, always a centre of attraction and interest. Lady Battersea extended a cordial welcome to her guests, asking all their names as she received them. Many well-known people had been invited to meet the delegates.

The Lord Bishop of London and Mrs Creighton gave a garden party to all members of Congress on Saturday, July 1, at Fulham Palace. The weather, which had been very threatening all the morning, cleared before 4 o'clock, and nothing intervened to spoil a very enjoyable afternoon. It made a suitable ending to the busy week, and not a few members of Congress found it a relief to interchange ideas on the meetings they had attended with other friends while strolling about the pleasant lawns and listening to the band.

On Tuesday afternoon, July 4, a garden party, on a magnificent scale, was given to members of Congress by Lady Rothschild and Mrs Leopold de Rothschild at Gunnersbury Park. No pains had been spared by these kind hostesses to provide amusement and entertainment for their guests. Special trains conveyed the latter to their destination, and brakes were waiting at the station to drive them to the house. The gardens looked lovely in their summer richness of colouring, and tents for tea, fruit, ices and all sorts of refreshments were to be found everywhere in the grounds; while for amusement, a programme had been arranged which included most of the special attractions at the Empire Theatre. The guests included many distinguished people.

The garden party was followed that evening by the Countess of Aberdeen's farewell reception at the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colour, Piccadilly, to the delegates, invited speakers, members of committees and sub-committees of the International Council, and to members of Congress, and the rooms proved all too small for the numbers that crowded into them. The hostess was supported by the Earl of Aberdeen and her daughter, Lady Marjorie Gordon.

At the close of the evening a unanimous feeling of gratitude to Lady Aberdeen for her great and unstinted labours in organising and conducting the Congress found expression in a vote of thanks proposed in a speech of mingled feeling and humour by Miss Susan B. Anthony, who, in thanking Lady

Aberdeen, thanked likewise all those who had acted as her coadjutors, and the many hospitable persons who had entertained the strangers. The Bishop of Rochester dwelt on Lady Aberdeen's tact and sympathy, and the strength and beauty of her character. Then there were cheers, and afterwards Lord Aberdeen replied that if Lady Aberdeen gave full meed of sympathy to others she also appreciated it when rendered to her, and she thanked all those who had co-operated with her in making the Congress so great a success, and not only that, but in marking an important advance in the progress of those good causes in which the members were interested. Lord Aberdeen did not conclude without offering to the young ladies who acted as stewards at the meetings a well-deserved acknowledgment.

On July 5 the official delegates to the International Council held a business meeting at Cassiobury Park, and afterwards lunched with Lord and Lady Aberdeen. There were again votes of thanks, especially for hospitality, to which Mrs Creighton and Lady Battersea, two of the chief hostesses of Congress week, responded, and Lady Aberdeen read a letter from Sir Arthur Bigge, intimating that, in response to the wish of foreign, American and colonial delegates to see the Queen, Her Majesty would receive them in the quadrangle of Windsor Castle on Friday afternoon.

On Thursday another meeting was held at Cassiobury Park—this time for the members of the Executive of the Canadian National Council of Women, and long will this meeting and its interesting surroundings remain in the memory of those who attended it. A special train had been arranged to take the 30 or 40 guests to Watford, and from there they were met and driven up to the interesting old house, which belongs to Lord Essex. Here they were received by Lord and Lady Aberdeen.

The Executive Meeting was held *al fresco* under beautiful cedar trees, on a lawn of velvet, and resumed after lunch. Tea and farewell came all too soon.

A final seal was set upon the complete success of the International Congress of Women by the gracious welcome accorded to its members by the Queen at Windsor on Friday, July 7. Added to its earnest deliberations and the splendid succession of fêtes and entertainments, it has enjoyed the crowning triumph of the approval of Her Majesty! This was the dominant feeling among all who were privileged to be present on this memorable occasion, and the Royal recognition of the aim and purpose of



LADY ROTHSCHILD.

(Photo by Miss Hughes.)



MRS. LEOPOLD DE ROTHSCHILD.

(Photo by Miss Hughes.)

*The Hostesses of the International Congress of Women at Gunnersbury Park, July 4th, 1899.*

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the Congress, in its efforts to find, by mutual comparison and discussion, the best methods of carrying out work for the good of humanity, has given immense satisfaction in all directions.

A special train conveyed the delegates—about 300 in all—from Paddington to Windsor, where they arrived about half-past four. The majority walked up to the Castle, and waited in the shadow of the Round Tower until the time Her Majesty was to start on her afternoon drive. Then the gates into the quadrangle—on which the private apartments face—were opened, and the delegates were asked to stand in a double line along the drive, leading from the private entrance to George IV.'s Gateway, and on into the long walk.

At half-past five Her Majesty entered her carriage, accompanied by Princess Henry of Battenberg and the Dowager Lady Southampton in attendance.

The carriage drove out of the entrance porch very slowly, and stopped where Lady Aberdeen was standing. The Queen motioned to her to come forward, and through her welcomed the delegates to Windsor.

Mrs Sanford of Canada, who had been at Windsor at the time of the death of Sir John Thompson, was presented to Her Majesty, who spoke kindly words of remembrance to her.

Before a group of Hindoo and Parsee ladies, dressed in their native costumes, the Queen stopped again, and seemed pleased that there were so many delegates from that part of her Empire.

As the carriage passed slowly along, a verse of the National Anthem was heartily sung, and all were charmed by the Queen's obvious goodwill and demeanour of kind and genial interest.

Lord Edward Pelham Clinton announced that tea was in readiness for the Queen's guests in St George's Hall, to which, conducted by himself and Sir Arthur Bigge, the company went, and who shall gainsay the truth of a remark that was overheard that "never had there been such a good cup of tea as that drunk out of the Queen's Sèvres china."

Far and wide into distant Australia and Indian bazaars, into far Argentina and British Columbia will be taken the happy recollections of the royal reception.

The official entertainments were only a few of the many proofs of hospitality that were shown to our foreign and colonial sisters during that interesting fortnight, and of which for want of space only the briefest mention can be made.

There was the lunch on June 27, given at the Criterion Restaurant by the Women's Industrial Council to the speakers and delegates of the Industrial Section, and that given on July 3 by the Society of American Women in London, at the Hotel Cecil, followed by an afternoon reception.

A dinner was given by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland at the Criterion Restaurant, to which all nurses from other countries received invitations. A dinner at the Club House, Royal Botanic Gardens, was given by the medical staff of the New Hospital for Women to the medical women members of the Congress.

At Homes were given by Mrs Beer, The Pioneer Club, The Somerville Club, Mrs Yerburgh. An afternoon reception was given by Mrs Wynford Philipps to members of the International Congress at the Grosvenor Crescent Club.

Mme. Bergman Osterberg's At Home to 100 members of the Educational Section at the Physical Training College, Dartford Heath, Kent.

Garden parties were given by the Sesame Club at the Sesame House for Home-Life Training; Mrs Styer, The Haven, 12 Wedderburn Road, Fitzjohn's Avenue; and the Committee of the Bedford College Students Associations at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park.

Tea parties were provided for members of Congress by Mr and Mrs Charles Hancock on the Terrace of the National Liberal Club, also by Mr Carew, M.P., and Mr Lough, M.P., on the Terrace of the House of Commons, and the Indian and Colonial Committee of the National Union of Women Workers at 59 Berners Street invited the Colonial delegates.

The National Training School of Cookery, Buckingham Palace Road, undertook to provide free luncheon and tea for 20 members of Congress throughout the session.

The National Association for promoting the Welfare of the Feeble Minded invited members of Congress interested in the training of the mentally deficient to St Saviour's Home, Hendon. Tea was provided.

Mrs Franklin gave an At Home to the members of the Educational Section to meet the Committee of the Parents' Educational Union.

Miss Isla Stewart, matron of St Bartholomew's Hospital, invited the members of the nursing sub-section to tea at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

The Hon. Sydney Holland (Chairman of the London Hospital), invited the nurses attending Congress to visit the London Hospital. Tea and coffee were served in the garden.

The Association of Head Mistresses invited members of the Educational Section to the Grey-Coat School for Girls, Westminster. Tea was provided.

Miss Mason, the Local Government Board's senior inspector of boarding out, received any ladies who were interested in the boarding out of Poor Law children at her flat, and provided tea.

Mrs S. O. Barnett and some of the Presidents of Toynbee Hall invited members of Congress to tea at Toynbee, White-chapel Road.

The governing body of the Horticultural College, Swanley, invited members of Congress to inspect the college, grounds and house of residence for women students.

The Countess of Warwick gave an At Home at the Women's Hostel for Agricultural Students, Reading.

Mr Arnold F. Hills (President of the Vegetarian Federal Union), invited members of Congress to an excursion on the river.

The Cavendish Preventive Training Home, Pond Street, Hampstead, gave tea.

An At Home given by Mansfield House, 89 Barking Road, E., and Women's Settlement, 46 Barking Road. Invitations were issued by several people interested in the Congress to delegates and invited speakers to be their guests in the country from Saturday till Monday.

Lord and Lady Tweedmouth entertained the members of the Canadian National Council to tea at Brook House, Park Lane, on July 1st, being Dominion Day.

Sir Richard Temple invited two parties of members of Congress to visit him at his country place, The Nash, near Worcester, from Thursday to Saturday and from Saturday to Monday.

The Hon. Mrs Bertrand Russell entertained the girls attending the meeting at the Passmore Edwards Settlement after the conclusion of their meeting.

The Children's Home and Orphanage, Bonnar Road, London, N.E., was open to the inspection of members of the International Congress. Refreshments were provided, and a special musical and gymnastic entertainment.

Kindly hospitality by the following clubs was given to the members of different sections of the Congress:—The Writer's

Club, The Sesame Club, The Grosvenor Crescent Club, The Camelot Club, The Albemarle Club, The Women's University Club, The Pioneer Club.

And all this is but a tithe of the hospitality shown by private friends in countless thoughtful ways!

Was there ever a Congress so feted and so cared for?

But let those who thus warmed the hearts of many earnest workers rest assured that their generous kindness will be cherished by their guests with very genuine feelings of gratitude and appreciation.

## Report on the Work of the Stewards.

THE Editor of these Transactions of the International Congress, feeling that the report of the proceedings would not be complete without some report from the Stewards, to whose organisation, thoughtfulness, energy and care so much of the comfort of the meetings were due, has prevailed on Miss Bairdsmith, Chief Steward and convener of the Stewards' Committee, to write the following brief account of their labours, to which is appended a report by Lady Edmund Talbot and Miss Clare Fortescue, Head Stewards at the Church House, as to their organisation of the Stewards provided by the Catholic Social Union for service to the Congress.

## The Stewards of the International Congress of Women.

Miss Bairdsmith.

EARLY in May it was intimated to me that I could give help in the work of organising one of the various departments of Congress work by undertaking to arrange the Stewards' branch. With a plentiful lack of experience I came to my work, which was given an official status by electing me to the Hospitality Sub-Committee, so that we worked in connection with that particular committee, receiving our grant for funds, and having our proceedings ratified and confirmed by the votes of the committee.

Owing to the fact that the Congress had three places of meeting, my first care was to make each place of meeting entirely independent, and to find efficient head stewards to be responsible for the two halls, at which it was impossible for me to be present. Two head stewards for each hall were appointed—for Westminster Town Hall, Miss Bairdsmith and Miss Marion Russell ; for St Martin's Town Hall, Miss Edith Ayrton and Miss Rilter ; and at the Church House, Lady Edmund Talbot and Miss Clare Fortescue. We all met at stated intervals to arrange and consult, but, subject to the approval of the Hospitality Committee, each hall was allowed a very free hand in the arranging of details. The general scheme being the same, I do not fancy that any very great variety occurred in the detail work. At anyrate, I have every reason to know that the work was most efficiently and satisfactorily done, but, of course, I can only speak with authority and knowledge of how things were done at the hall for which I personally was responsible. I was most fortunate in gathering together a large number of able and willing young women. My "army" consisted of close on 100 members. Three attendances qualified for the possession of a free member of Congress ticket ; and the Stewards received invitations for several of the entertainments, in gracious acknowledgment of the services which each and all assured me, both at the time and often afterwards, were a most pleasing addition to their experiences. Having recruited my army, nearly all as inexperienced in such matters as myself, I arranged them all according to their promises of attendance, and so on, to be present in relays each morning and afternoon. From 25 to 35 were present for each meeting, drafted into the Large Hall, Council Chambers and Small Hall ; and here I may say that Miss Gladys Salis-Schwale undertook the Headship of the Council Chambers, whenever a meeting was held there, and did the work needed there so well that the entire responsibility was lifted from my shoulders. The stewards each wore a pretty badge of pompons, white and amber, with a small bow, and this little signal came to be well known, and hailed by members of Congress in any difficulty, as they were sure of getting help and attention from the wearers. For instruction in our duties we were much indebted to Miss Isabel Marshall of Croydon, who, from her own great experience in such matters, was able to give us great help ; and each day we found the work grew more interesting, and we learned to sum up the qualifications needed by a Steward under the three headings of Punctuality,

Pleasantness and Patience. The actual duties, beyond looking at the tickets, showing members to their places, and being ready to run any number of errands, from platform to hall and hall to platform, from one hall to another, were very difficult to define, and we just had to be ready to do whatever turned up to the best of our powers. The Stewards were a most willing and zealous band, and, through all the ten days of the Congress, worked cheerily and earnestly. I can hardly close this sketch of our small share in the great success of 1899, the International Congress of Women, without acknowledging the kindness of Mrs Charles Hancock, who placed her rooms so frequently at our disposal for the numerous meetings that we needed during the course of the time that we were arranging our work, and I carry away from the Congress many, many pleasant memories of kindness received, help given, and experience gained.

## The Stewards provided by the Catholic Social Union Workers.

Lady Edmund Talbot and Miss Fortescue.

As representatives of Catholic womens' work in England, we were offered places upon a sub-committee deputed to arrange the Congress, and were asked to *man* with stewards one of the three halls during the week of the session. We called a preliminary meeting together of the head workers of the ten Catholic Social Union Clubs and Settlements, and explained to them the fundamental rules agreed upon for the organisation of stewards.

They each undertook to bring a certain number of friends or fellow-workers willing to act as Stewards on this occasion, and a large meeting of all the Catholic Social Union workers in London was convoked at Norfolk House, when His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan presided. Before he addressed them, we explained that we had been called together, not merely, as at other times, to discuss the work and needs of our organisation, but to arrange how best to answer the invitation offered to us by the promotores of the International Congress of Women to take a definite part in the work of this Congress.

It was the first time that Catholic work had received public recognition in England in recent times, and we wished to answer the invitation cordially and well.

The Cardinal, after an able address upon the work, needs and motives of the Catholic workers of London, expressed his satisfaction that they had received this recognition, and his approval of our acceptance of the post offered.

He also spoke of the Congress, and said how ready all workers should be to hear different sides discussed of the questions that interested them, and hoped that we should all come away from the meetings with a fresh store of ideas tending to strengthen our efforts for bettering the condition of the poor, etc., etc.

After His Eminence had left, those workers able to promise the three requisite days, morning or afternoon, during the week of Congress, came forward and gave in their names and the dates most convenient to them. Thus supplied with a body of sixty, we agreed to meet once more at my house, where the last definite arrangements should be made.

At this final meeting each Steward was supplied with a card, on which she inscribed, as it was read out, not only the hours definitely fixed for her, but the particular work to be done on each occasion. The one acting as platform steward during the morning would be placed in the nave or at the door during the afternoon, no one having the same duty twice, and those whose work kept them away from the speeches, such as the book-room, ticket table, etc., were replaced each hour, that they might lose as little of the subject-matter of the Congress as possible. We found that this arrangement acted perfectly, and everyone seemed satisfied with their branch of labour, and worked assiduously and well. Indeed, there was no hitch, and the Stewards themselves enjoyed the subjects under discussion very much. The only occasion on which we should not have wished our Stewards to be in the hall, we were helped by the Chairwoman, who, from the platform, requested all the girls to leave the room.

If I have not dwelt upon the meeting, which, by the great kindness of Mrs Charles Hancock, was held at her house, at the beginning of the arrangements, it is that we have been asked to give our notes of our own working of Stewards, and that this meeting embraced the workers of the three halls, who were addressed by Miss Marshall upon the general idea of a Steward's duties, and shown the various tickets to pass and divisions of labour.

## Special Religious Services held during the Congress.

### SPECIAL SERVICE IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

THROUGH the kind intervention of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, the Dean of Westminster undertook to arrange a special service for the members of the International Council and Congress of Women, on Monday afternoon, July 3rd, at 3.30. The service was greatly appreciated and largely attended. The Rev. Hon. Arthur Lyttelton, Bishop of Southampton, was the special preacher. He took as his text,—"No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God." This, he said, was one of many passages in which our Lord laid strong and striking emphasis on the duty of single-mindedness in the work of God. After dwelling upon this point the Bishop proceeded (as reported in the *Guardian*) :—

"And it is as workers that you are here to-day; you have heard the call, and have put your hand to the plough, and have determined to build, and are resolved to wage your warfare, and have set your faces towards the goal. In one form or another, what you are about is God's work, to extend His kingdom, to order this or that portion of the world according to His will, to pour His light into this or that dark place, to help some of His children in keeping His law. If this be so, then, as workers for God, as followers of Christ, you have to purge out the taint of self—self-interest, self-absorption, self-consciousness—in whatever form self is present in your work it is a hindrance and a defect; it makes you 'look back,' it distracts and clouds the eye which should be clear to see God's purpose only. And self has subtler forms than the bare devotion to personal interests, or the morbid, childish consciousness of one's own personality, which we all learn more or less to disguise and to modify. It comes to us in the shape of the interests and the consciousness of a society, a trade, a class, and we are learning to recognise it under these forms, and to shun class selfishness no less than personal selfishness. But to you it comes in a still more plausible disguise, not as selfishness at all,

but as self-consciousness and self-assertion, and not of a mere class or trade or section, but as the self-consciousness of a whole sex, and self-assertion of one-half of the human race. The danger which, for the present at least, is most to be feared in the interests of women's work is that it should be regarded primarily as women's and only secondarily as work. There is, of course, ample justification in the history of women for the tendency to think more of the workers than of the work, to consider yourselves not as labourers in God's vineyard in common with all 'His servants,' but as a class apart with your own interests to serve. If women are apt to regard themselves as a separate class it is because men have treated them as a separate class, under different laws and with different interests from those which govern the masculine half of humanity. That those laws have been framed for women by men, and that those interests have been made subservient to the interests of men, does not in any degree diminish the separateness, or take from women, now that they are coming more and more to think for themselves, the tendency to self-consciousness and self-assertion. But, though it readily explains this tendency, it does not justify it. For the only justification of any impulse, or thought, or act, is its effect on the fulfilment of God's purpose, its power to further the work which God has given us to do. And no true work can be done, or, at least, it can only be done very imperfectly, when the worker's mind is confused by the thought of himself; his eye distracted by the sight of others with whom he compares himself; his will diverted from its true object by the desire to assert himself. No less dangerous is it to regard your work as a means and not as an end, to take it up with the object, or even the underlying sense, of furthering your own interests, or those of your class, or even of your sex. The work of God is too great a thing to be made an instrument for accomplishing other purposes. You must even beware of allowing yourself to be distracted from the true object of your work by the consciousness that it is a novel thing for women to do it, or by a feeling of self-satisfaction, of triumph in the accomplishment of an unwonted task. There is a joy in well-wrought work, as all true workers know; but it is a joy which is deep and pure in proportion to its unselfishness. It is a snare and a hindrance to be comparing yourself with others, to be dwelling on the manner in which you are doing your work, even to be thinking of its effect on the position of your class or of your

sex ; in a word, to look back, or around, or away, from the object of all your energies, the accomplishment of that which God has called you to do. 'No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.'

"It is, of course, inevitable that, at the present stage in the movement, as it is called, there should be this element of self-consciousness, of comparison, of self-assertion, in those who, almost for the first time in history, are emerging from the former narrow and quiet limits to which custom had confined women's lives and activities. It has been so in all great movements of classes and races in the world, and we need not exaggerate it or blame it overmuch. But it must be recognised as a hindrance, and not a necessary accompaniment to women's work. The new position of women, the fresh activities which are theirs, the wider opportunities of usefulness, ought to be and may be natural, simple, unostentatious. There is no real need why women should be habitually compared with men any more than the men of one race are habitually compared with others. It is only incidentally, and as a matter of quite secondary importance, that we regard the nationality of men who are engaged in some great work, deep and wide though the differences of national character are. So it should be with women's work. It is not because we do not recognise the far deeper and wider differences between men and women that we deprecate the constant comparisons which are drawn, the surprise which is still expressed at women's work, or the unnatural praise which is often accorded to it. The great thing is that the work should be done, whoever does it. The reason why we hail the advent of women workers is not mainly that they are women, but that there is work to be done which they alone or best can do. It is precisely because we believe in the immense differences between men and women in gifts and characters and faculties that we believe in the value to mankind of their co-operation. If there were but one sort of task to accomplish in the world, doubtless one sort of human being could accomplish it ; but the needs of mankind are infinitely various, the purposes of God are manifold, and the tasks which He has intrusted to us require the co-operation of every faculty of our diversely-endowed nature, every kind of character, every different instinct, every varied power and aptitude of the different classes, and races, and sexes of humanity. And

in this process of co-ordinating and adapting human faculties to the accomplishment of the manifold work of God there is no need that we should pronounce beforehand that this or that sphere of work is closed to this or that class or race or sex. It is only experience that can decide what men and what women can do. We all know the characteristic moral and intellectual, as well as physical, differences between the sexes; but we do not know how these characteristics will act when applied to the infinitely various and ever-changing needs of mankind, how they will influence events, and be themselves influenced and modified. The one thing we know is that 'male and female created He them,' and that, therefore, He has His own work for both to do, His own use for the diverse natures that He has made. 'There are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.'

"Doubtless the process of learning this experience, of adjusting the new relations of women in the social order, will be difficult and may even be dangerous. But so it has been at other times. As each new class has, by the inevitable progress of mankind, moved into its new place and power in the community, the world has been disturbed till the process of adjustment has been completed. We have hardly come to the end of the reorganisation made necessary by the entry of the working classes into the duties and the rights of full citizenship when this far more complex, more disturbing adjustment is forced upon us. It will not be completed in our generation, perhaps not for many generations; and none of us can say how it will finally come to pass, in what way women's place in the social organism will be ultimately ordered. But come it will, if, as we believe, it is part of God's design for the human race; and we can be content to wait and to work for it, leaving it to Him to reject or to perfect our feeble efforts.

"What, then, should be the temper and attitude of women in face of the great change which is passing over society? how are they to prepare themselves for the new and wider life that lies before them? how are they to answer to the call when it comes? Surely by realising that it is a call, and a call to work for God. 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? Then said I, Here am I, send me.' There was only the profoundest humility in the prophet's absolute readiness to do the Divine bidding; and all true workers, in whatever station or sphere, eminent or obscure, the call may come to them, must hear

it as he heard it, with utter self-distrust, indeed, but with the complete obedience of humility, and take the task, and do the work because it is from God. If this be your temper and spirit, you will realise the true meaning and purpose of what is spoken of as the liberation of women, the increased soft freedom of their lives. You will not fall into the common blunder of thinking that freedom means mere deliverance from control, a bare license to do what you choose, for you will know that first comes the work which God would have you do, and that therefore freedom means a further power to use your faculties in His service. 'Ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.' As it was with the first Christian converts, delivered from the bondage of the law or the yet more cruel slavery of heathen superstition, so it is with you; the liberty to which you are called must be no occasion or opportunity for wilfulness or selfish indifference, but the means of serving God by serving His children in love. There is a tremendous responsibility laid upon those who are called unto liberty. It is given to them that thereby they may more fully develop their powers and train their characters and discipline their wills; that they may have the opportunity of learning, in the one great school of experience, the methods and the laws of God; and that they may discover among all the manifold forms of human duty that way of service which is for them the most perfect freedom. Such is the responsibility which is laid upon you, and upon all women who, in this modern civilisation of ours, are hearing the call and feeling the impulse to liberty. We may be sure that it is God's call, and yet, like all other great stages of human progress, it is beset with dangers, 'occasions to the flesh,' temptations to selfish wilfulness, means and opportunities of license, arrogant contempt for plain duties, ostentatious display, senseless innovation. Against these you have to guard by setting before yourselves the thought of that work to do which God is giving you your freedom, that service of each other by love which demands the fulness of all your faculties, the discipline of your whole nature."

In conclusion the Bishop pressed upon his hearers to make clear to themselves their motive. They might, indeed, be thankful that many who could not yet feel love for Christ as their living Lord and Saviour were being moved to help, as best they could, the brethren for whom He died; but the truest and

most faithful work for God must spring from a heart which had felt His abiding Presence and had been touched by His love.

Several other special sermons were preached, bearing on the work of the Congress, on Sunday, March 2, amongst which may be noted one by

#### THE REV. CANON SCOTT HOLLAND.

The Rev. Canon Scott Holland preached, at St James's Church, Piccadilly, the following sermon:—"Mary Magdalene told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things unto her." Only a woman's whisper! That was all that signalled the change. Everything else was outwardly the same as it had ever been. The crowds jostled as of old along the narrow streets. The temple court was thronged. And the oxen stood there lowing wearily, and the huddled sheep, and the doves. And the coins tinkled on the tables of the money-changers. And children gazed and wondered; and the priests plied their task; and the incense smoke crept upwards; and the scribes swept to and fro in long robes. And friends met and talked, and smiled, and parted. And everywhere there was chatter, and noise, and laughter. They ate and drank and were merry, for it was the feast in Jerusalem. The great flow of human life rolled on with its ten thousand cares, and hopes, and fears, and joys. On it rolled as in many a happy year before. Old sights, old sounds, familiar as household words to loyal Jews, repeated themselves anew; and the eyes of the aged looked out upon the scene recalling vanished years, and praying that long after they were laid to rest in quiet graves their children and their children's children might still see what they saw that day, and might still go "round about Jerusalem and tell her towers and mark well her bulwarks" as they go up "into the courts of the Lord's House with the multitudes that keep holiday."

And above it all the great sun moved in silence, and the brooding hills ringed it round as they had done since the world was made, steadfast in the possession of their everlasting secret; and the waters of Shiloh moved softly down their channels; and the birds sang, and the dew fell, and the pascal moon rose at her appointed hour, serene and calm. All things continued as they were from the beginning. The big world had forgotten already,

you would think, the swift passion that had swept Pilate's Judgment Hall with the shout of "Crucify! Crucify! Not this man for us, but Barabbas;" and the savage decision which had wiped out, it would seem, for ever the name and the memory of one more poor Enthusiast for the Hope of Israel, who had gone down under the iron heel of Rome. Once, indeed, those holiday crowds had really dreamed that this might be He who should redeem His people. So pure and simple He seemed! With such goodness of heart! With such stainless innocence! But He got unsteady, so men said. He threw His chance away. His sayings got stranger and more perilous. Every one gave Him up at last. He spoke wild words against the Holy Temple. He broke into threats. There was no help for it. An end had to be made, the inevitable end that overtakes those who lose their self-control and are betrayed into deceiving the people. Hard and horrid is the process. Alas! Rome makes short work and sharp of these matters. Thank God it is over before the Feast, so that every one can go up to the Altar of God with a free heart, unalarmed, only anxious to forget as soon as may be a wasted hope, a miserable disaster. Mercifully the bodies have all been taken away, and the crosses are gone, so there is nothing to shock. Men can walk over the little dry hill, bare as a naked skull, and not know that anything had happened there. So quick these things pass; and the best thing is to let them go and be rid of them. It is useless to regret irrevocable blunders, and to think of what might have been if only things had been different. Anyhow, it is done and over. No one can help it now. And in the meantime here is the Feast; and the hymns are ringing in their ears that they have always sung; and the *alleluias* break from their lips; and the trumpets are blown uplifted; and the murmur of happy multitudes fills all the air with gladness.

So it all goes forward. Not a sign troubles the heavens. Not a quiver passes over the earth. There is no signal of any change. And no one stops to notice that in one dark room, hidden and barred for fear of the Jews, where a few blurred figures crouch with covered heads in the gloom, speechless with sorrow, a sudden gleam has shot in through a swiftly opened door, and a woman has bent over the weeping men and whispered in their ears, "He is risen, I have seen Him!"

Only a woman's whisper: yet it was no frail flutter of a passionate heart, no unsteady fantasy thrown off from

a feverish brain. Rather its note is peace. All excitement, all unnatural heat died out of her from the first moment in which her ears caught the call of "Mary," and her lips formed the answer, "Rabboni."

We are apt to imagine that miracles force conviction by their startling strangeness—by their violent defiance of all natural conditions and normal experiences. But this supreme miracle of the Resurrection convinces by its absolute and harmonious calm. It slides in without an effort—without a rupture—with-out a shock. Its presence has that about it which dismisses every form of surprise. Before it had happened it would have appeared to the Magdalene, as much as to us, an incredible impossibility. But in happening it had explained, it interpreted, it justified itself. It took its place amid the typical and normal scenery of her life. Earth and sky and sun were all aware of what she saw ; they waited round as friends conscious, co-operating. No jar, no violence was done them. They simply moved on in their primeval solidarity to this anticipated completion. It was as natural, as quietly, as sanely natural as the grass that grew at her feet, that He who had been dead should be saying, "Mary," and that she should be answering, "Rabboni."

Could anything, therefore, be more free from wonder, or from excitement, than the record of her words and ways? "Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that He had spoken these words unto her." Just that! No more!

The wild weeping has ceased—that unnatural extravagance of grief in which she had roamed about like a mother robbed of her child, so possessed of that one relentless thought which she repeated over and over again, "They have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him"—that she had been blinded to the very Master who stood before her, and thought it had been the gardener. Grief had then denaturalised her faculties. But now her senses, her mind, her speech—all have recovered control. Reason, judgment, experience, work once more in orderly fashion, temperate and serene. So plain it all is now! So obvious! Life is rationalised, harmonised. It is consistent again, even as when she walked about in it as a little child, and was confident in its solid integrity, in its smooth response. Note how when she had first missed the body she had, in her impulsive excitement, run headlong to tell Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved—"They have

taken away the Lord ;" and they, at that sorrowful news, had risen and run, run with all their might, so that the younger man could not even wait for his slower companion. But now there is no more mention of running. No flutter of haste in the narrative. No ! She would just walk home and tell them what had happened—" Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord."

And the same calm falls upon the troubled band of men as soon as the new experience is made their own. Frightened and startled while they fancy it a spirit, let it but approve itself to their senses, and at once the peace which it breathes over them possesses them. They, too, like the Magdalene, gain composure. How quiet, how sane the description sounds!—" Then were the disciples glad when they had seen the Lord."

A woman's whisper ! Yet no passing breath sent loosely down the wind to startle, to kindle, and then amid the harsh pressure of facts, under the rough discipline of common sense, to break and scatter and fail and die. Nay ! A whisper which with the slow and gathered weight which is the surest test of undoubted verity, grew louder and louder until it filled the earth as with the shout of ten thousand times ten thousand. That low whisper pitted itself against the solid environments of facts, which to the outward eyes appeared to ignore it or to deny it, until it mastered and overthrew them. It was a whisper that put out power ; it reversed the order of history. It removed empires ; it emptied the temple courts of all their crowds and displaced its enormous stones ; it has ever since been the prime factor in creating the story of man. It was a whisper stronger than the Roman rule : it is still stronger than any other force to shape the course of civilisation. That quietness which was its characteristic is not only the mark of its confidence in the natural fact which it recorded, but also of the Power that lay behind the fact—the Power of certain mastery, the Power that could lay hold on the world, and subdue and transfigure it—the Power that is its own evidence beyond dispute and denial, making its own way, asserting its own will, verifying its own inherent energy ; ordaining, fashioning, controlling, constructing ; compelling recognition by the continuity of its calculable and constant effects ; producing its characteristic results in laws and in society, in literature, in art, in buildings and in states, and above all in the souls of men whom it converts from darkness into light ; whom it frees ; whom it

fertilises ; in whom it actually begets a new creature, a new humanity.

Ah ! No frail and dying whisper this ! But the primal entry upon the scene of man's practical activities, in all their rough and tumble reality, of a force more active than them all—a force that can bind the fiercest passions and can cleanse the foulest hearts and can beat down the toughest obstructions, and can prove itself to be the one steady and indisputable experience which shall stand like a rock when all else of the solid earth shall dissolve away, swept into space like a shadowy dream. Yet so quiet it was—that first disclosure of the new secret which the Magdalene whispered to the mourning men.

And, my brethren, whenever God takes a novel stage in creation this same quiet security is the note of the change. The new type takes its place in the general order and fabric without the slightest shock or surprise. Nature, the existent nature, appears to expect it ; it opens out to its admittance with candid ease. Far from feeling that a miraculous breach has been driven into its established methods, or that its consistency is impugned, or its authority weakened, or its laws challenged, or its evidence cancelled, the very opposite impression is conveyed. The new appearance, unique, unparalleled, unaccounted for as it is—a totally strange arrival, which no combination of existent causes could assist to produce—is nevertheless no stranger. Now that it has come, it finds itself perfectly at home. It corroborates what is already there ; it confirms its validity in that it carries it further to another stage. A fresh harmony discloses itself, which spreads downward over the lower areas of existence, drawing everything together into a firmer solidity, completing, fulfilling, constructing.

Let us attempt to recall two such epochs which may invite comparison with the Resurrection. For instance, it must certainly have been so on that unique day—a day far back behind all the centuries that we dare number, yet a day which our present experience entitles us to reproduce in imagination—when for the first time in the slow unrolling of the creative work of God there appeared in amidst the layers of unorganic matter, governed as these had been ever since the first hour by the rigid monotony of mechanical law and chemical combination, the primary germ of living substance, a tiny protoplasmic cell ! A moment before it was not there. A moment after and there it is. There it is ; and it is alive ! Nothing like it had been seen or known. It

holds in it a secret for which the laws of mechanism or of chemical precipitation offer no solution. Instead of submitting to these laws, hitherto paramount, it sets itself to utilise them, to subordinate them to purposes of its own. It manipulates them so as to counteract them, and to rise out of them. It is life—that is, it does not merely submit to motion ; it exerts a counter motion of its own. From that moment an epoch has struck. An entirely new story has begun. The Drama of Creation is shifted ; it has found a novel centre. Its development transfers itself from the lower planes of material existence, and turns wholly round this fresh arrival. A gulf has been overleapt. An immense revolution has taken place, signalled by that living germ, which it will take centuries to work out to its fulfilment. All this is secreted in that tiny cell. Yet how smoothly normal, and easy, and natural the transition has been ! It must have passed in, according to what science now reveals to us, without a quiver of disturbance. Rather it would seem that Nature had been waiting for this unparalleled appearance. Those mechanical and chemical methods, under which the whole round earth had been bound so long, acquiesce in a moment in that which is so profoundly unlike them ; they close up round it—they sort and distribute themselves for its service. Far from being interrupted or confounded, they move more freely, they interpret themselves more easily, now that they have life as their key, than when they were bounded by their own limitations. Organic life, the miracle, enters as a friend, with the quiet ease of one long known and expected. All surprise disappears. Everything is obvious. What else could have happened but just this ?

Take the other typical instance. Once again, after the slow centuries have evolved, under the pressure of selection, the innumerable variations of which the germinal life is capable, a date is struck ; a gulf is spanned ; a new plane is opened. There, in the deepest heart of the older process—there, amid the teeming swarm of animal existence, by a breath—at a stroke—it has happened. The word of the Lord has spoken, and lo ! life has become conscious ; a spirit has entered into possession of his body ; a new thing has come to pass. Man has been created. How ? When ? Who saw him come ? Science ransacks the recesses of Nature, but there is no shock discoverable, no violence in this transition. Everything moves on according to its ancient rhythm. Sun and stars roll in their courses : the steady earth turns as of old ; not a sign of disturbance or of unevenness. The

new finds its place, its assured, natural place amid the old : the old responds to the supremacy of the new ; it falls under its novel manipulation, its government, as under its own true law. Yet the new thing is wholly distinct, unique, original. Anticipations there were of it in the earlier levels of life, but no precedent, no parallel. At its entry the whole future story of development takes a totally new departure, revolves round a new centre. Nature has now to admit it within itself, the career, the story of Man, with his Speech, his Laws and his Society, his Literature and his Art, his Ethics and his Religion. Such incomparable wonders ! Yet all these slid in, slipped in, on that quiet day, when not a whisper even stole round to report that God had breathed into man's nostrils, and he had become a living soul.

At each miraculous moment, then, it is the same. Not a ruffle, not a shock, as Nature opens to admit organic life ! Not a ruffle, not a shock, as again it opens to admit the mind of man ! From below, on the lower planes, each arrival would appear so incredible, so revolutionary, so absurd, so abnormal. But each as it happens disposes of all surprise. In announcing itself, it reveals itself as the normal, the anticipated, coming to a home that has been long prepared for it. Quietly it houses itself in our midst, and everything understands it, acquiesces, corresponds. And so it was, once more, on the day when the dawn of the Resurrection broke. There it was. The new date had struck ; the new level was touched : a new career for man had opened. Amazing vistas lay disclosed of all that would now become possible. Yet could anything be more natural ?

Mary Magdalene went quietly home and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

Only a woman's whisper !

My brothers, it was a woman's spiritual insight that first received the news of the Easter Day. It was a woman to whom it was given to perceive that a change had passed over the face of the earth. The men had despaired. Their sorrow had blinded them to the new secret. They lay bound and shut up within the night of their grief, though the Easter sun had risen, until Mary Magdalene came and told them she had seen the Lord. This is a thing to be remembered at this present time, when those women who are on the watch for the new day have gathered together out of all the peoples of two continents to confer here in London on what it is that they have seen. These are they

who should be the first to catch sight of that which is to be. To them the vision of the change should be given. It should be theirs to give the signal, to discover the call, to convey the reproof. They, if they are true to their task, should have eyes to see what God is doing and ears to hear His message. Herein lies their privilege, sealed to them by Mary Magdalene.

Let them not fail mankind in this hour, when questions so decisive, so many and so urgent are pressing for solution. Let them remember the Mary of old.

(1) She only won peculiar honour because she was so patiently faithful to the Lord whom she loved ; because she was found so early by His tomb ; because she could not bear to be far from all that was left to her of His dear presence ; because she clung so fast and so desperately to the one thing left for her to do by which to prove her unfailing faith in Him—the embalming of His dear body, the tending of His grave. If there be any of those gathering to this International Conference who are lost in a dark cloud of spiritual perplexity, and who as piteously as she complain that men have stolen away their Christ and they know not where He is laid, let them still keep near as the Magdalene did to the spot where he ought to be found. Let them cling to the hope that once was theirs. Let them seek and search and never surrender. Then to them, too, the Christ who seemed to them dead and buried and stolen will suddenly be found, they know not how, at their side, calling them by name, even as when He said of old to her who desperately wept, " Mary," and she answered, " Rabboni."

And (2) let these women in conference force us men to remember how vast are the changes which might actually come to pass here on earth in this our social civilisation as we know it.

There are so many things evil and base and cruel which are so ancient and habitual that it seems to us simply incredible that they should ever cease to be what they are now. We men cannot hope, cannot believe. What is the use of talking as if war, for instance, might actually cease, at least between Christian nations ? Or as if the miseries of the poor might be blotted out of this terrible London of ours ? Or as if the horrors of public harlotry might be wiped out of existence in Piccadilly ? These are visions, dreams that only darken our despair. We know quite well that, whatever we do or say, the same old curses will reproduce themselves. Always they have been what they are, and they will remain so to the bitter end. Let us have no

illusions. We may work to alleviate, to palliate, to save things from going worse. Relief, rescue: this will be possible, and this is something. But still the slums will reek; still the streets will swarm with sin; still the armies will clash, and blood will flow, and the wounded will wail, and the fires will flame. So we men murmur and mutter to ourselves in our darkened chamber, even while we grimly go about the business of succour and service.

Yet so to work is not to believe that Christ is risen—that Christ is King. Never in that dark spirit of despair will the true work for mankind be done. He is living King of all the earth, and He claims it all for His own. And it is the completeness of His claim that alone can nerve us for the work of undoing the weight of wrong. Whatever defies the claim need not be: it might be cast out. There is force enough in Christ to expunge it. In this faith alone can we go forward and make head. We must catch sight of the vision. We must follow the gleam. If we had but a little faith—as a grain of mustard seed—we might say to those awful mountains of wickedness, “Let them be removed,” and it would be done.

Have faith in God, for Christ is King! And it is the women to whom we look to save this faith, that it may never die out of us in our darkest hours. It is they who must whisper to us what they have seen. They must recall the good news. They must rouse us from our lethargy of grief. They must open the door of our darkened chamber and let in the light. They must waken the high hope when it sinks. They must rebuke us by their own imperishable conviction, even as she who came and told the men that Christ was alive and had spoken to her. Ah! and then, when the great change happens which we men had despaired of—when a new spiritual impulse has taken effect—when the old weary evils have been expelled—will it not seem so wholly natural, so right, so habitual, so inevitable that we shall be unable to conceive how we ever can have doubted its possibility? Will it not take its place in our normal, ordinary life, just as if it was bound to be there—just as if nobody could expect anything else? So easy, so simple, so obvious the thing that we men fancied incredible! Believe me, there must be so much round about us to-day which will seem to our children as impossible, as intolerable as mediæval tortures do to us now. “How did they ever tolerate those awful slums?” they will ask; “those hideous vices of the street; those barbarous instruments of war?” So they will say! And there will be, in those days which shall be

hereafter, beauty and brightness and gladness in their cities, which would stagger us as miraculous, as wild visionary dreams, but which they will find familiar as the air they breathe. There will be no more surprise at them than there was to Mary when she knew it was her Lord. The Old shall vanish away. All things shall become New.

Let the women sustain our faith in the New Day that shall dawn! Let them whisper in our ears the Good News! Let the men rise and work and pray for the joy that yet shall be the heritage and portion of the humanity that now toils and suffers! All is still possible. For Christ is risen. For Christ is King. He is in us. He is with us. We may speak with Him and He will call us by our name. And He has overcome the world.

#### CANON WILBERFORCE.

Canon Wilberforce, in addressing the congregation at St John's, Westminster, from the three texts, "Launch out into the deep," "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts," "Let him refrain his tongue from evil," inquired, with reference to the last division of his subject, why it was that so much stress was, in Holy Scripture, laid upon sins of the tongue? But St Peter showed that there were times when a proper and even a properly aggressive use should be made of the tongue, a use which lifting curses from the earth should beneficially purify. Referring then to those who, having made such beneficent use of speech as to draw down upon them, as reformers, the curse of the aggregate, the preacher declared that the thoughts which he had adduced applied cogently to the International Congress of Women Workers at present assembled in London. It was a significant sign of the times this Congress, these confederations of women. Well might the strongholds of vice tremble when woman, with her gloriously illogical sincerity, her powers of intuition, her unrivalled persuasiveness, thus came to the front in reform. And he bade those women go forth to win new victories. They should go forth with an enthusiasm that no misgiving could paralyse. But they should in so going beware lest they fished in shallow waters. It was impossible to lift humanity by fighting symptoms. True reformers must reform on the lines laid down by Christ, not by restraint from without, but by evolution from within. Woman had for so long laboured under disabilities that danger existed lest her ideas should, now that she stepped forth in freedom,

become narrow. But not thus could national wrongs be righted. The evolution of a principle of interior vitality, which, as it grew, protected itself by enactments in its statute books, would still be impotent unless unfolded from within.

#### CANON ARMITAGE ROBINSON.

Before commencing his sermon at St Margaret's, Westminster, Canon Armitage Robinson said: I desire to offer a word of earnest welcome and Godspeed to the delegates of the International Council of Women who are at present holding their meetings in Westminster. Their endeavour is to focus the efforts of those women who in many countries have founded national unions for promoting high ideals of woman's work of all kinds. The very fact of such associated effort is a new thing in the world, and a new message of hope to all who are in any way working for the larger life of our corporate humanity. Such work as this must needs be dear to the heart of the Divine Son of Man.

#### THE REV. F. B. MEYER.

In preaching a sermon addressed entirely to women, the Rev. F. B. Meyer, of Christ Church, Westminster Bridge Road, took as his text the words, "This that this woman hath done." In the course of his remarks, Mr Meyer pointed out the remarkable fact that Our Lord desired to associate woman with the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the centuries, to undo one of the results of the early sentence, and reinstate woman as the helper and fellow of man; to redeem her from the degradation into which non-Christian religions had consigned her, as the toy or slave of man; and to indicate that she would find her true sphere in following the guiding star of His Gospel. He welcomed the members of the Women's Congress who might be present, assuring them that there was no jealousy or niggardliness of concession of their just rights in his heart. Adam could view with equanimity the spectacle of Eve attempting and accomplishing work in the garden which he once thought was his special prerogative, if only she would do it in loving co-operation with himself. Women's work, he remarked, was characterised, as the incident before them indicated, by delicacy of insight, and by faithfulness to the ideals of the unseen and eternal qualities of

the soul, such as ministry, self-sacrifice and religion. He entreated his sisters not to allow themselves to be dominated by the love of money for its own sake, or by the desire for publicity. Let them live in fellowship with their ideals, as incarnated in Christ, and come to the valleys in which so much of human life was spent to hallow, quicken and refine. Be sure, he added, to compel us to treat you purely. Have lofty aims, and lift ours. Inspire us with your faith in these dark and doubting days.

At the two French Protestant Churches special sermons were likewise preached ; at l'Eglise Reformée Evangelique Française, at Bayswater, by Pasteur du Pontet de la Harpe, and at l'Eglise Protestante Française, Soho Square, by Pasteur Egremont. The latter gentleman took as his subject "The Golden Rule."

#### THE REV. H. R. HAWEIS.

Mr Haweis preached from the words in the 27th chapter of St Matthew :—" And many women were there." Wherever, he said, the interests of humanity were concerned, we should find that many women were there. This last week had witnessed in the International Congress of Women a spectacle unique in the history of the world. It marked an epoch in the evolution of woman's influence. They had met to consult on the interests of their sex, but also on something wider—the welfare of humanity. Noble women had spoken and acted of old, but never before had there been such co-operation, such organisation, such unanimity among women for great and eternal interests which touched the earth but reached to heaven. When he looked through the programme of the Congress he was amazed at the variety of topics. Even politics were there. The day had passed when the shallow sneer at women who took interest in politics was heard. Everything that was for the good of man or the glory of God had to do with politics, and, therefore, must be connected with the interests and influence of women. People might talk about fit subjects for them, but the only persons to lay down the law on that point were women themselves. No subject discussed at the Congress could be more appropriate than that of peace and war. They raised a great protest in the Queen's Hall against the apathy of the clergy and the churches with regard to war. If he took up the newspapers, and especially those extraordinary journals called religious newspapers, which were most unlike religious things, what did he read ? Something like this, that

the clergy were wasting their time about the garments they ought to wear and were consuming their ingenuity in trying to make out a connection between transubstantiation and the Lord's Supper. One would have expected them to go solid for the great Peace Congress at the Hague. Incense and copes and chasubles might give rise to many open questions from a legal point of view, but whether masses of men should be hurled on their fellow-creatures to cut their throats ought not to be an open question. He hailed with joy this great protest on the part of women, and he desired the truth to be proclaimed aloud everywhere until it reached the deaf ears of statesmen, that war was an organisation of uncivilised instincts, and that peace alone brought industrial and humanitarian and Christian progress. The influence of women had to find expression. That was the first great lesson they must learn. That influence found eloquent expression at the Queen's Hall. In this Congress women had shown themselves capable not only of expression but of self-organisation. He ventured to point out the enormous value of initiative—how multitudes perished, how many were forlorn, how progress was retarded because no one took the initiative that would lead to better things. We wanted the thoughts which breathed to find the words that burned. In the fourth century the initiative of the monk Telemachus put an end to gladiatorial combats at Rome. In our own time the initiative of Mme. Mistral, wife of the poet, caused all the women to quit the arena at Arles when a bull-fight was taking place. In all that was good and noble God had given the great power of initiation to women. The least men could do was to side with it. When he thought of the meanness and pusillanimity of people who saw things which they ought to disapprove, but against which they seldom raised the voice of disapproval, he sympathised with those who had the courage of their opinions. As a rule, women were far more courageous than men in speaking for religion, for decency, for human life, for humanity. So much for expression. What was left? Organisation. It was the second great lesson which women must study. Half the generous movements in the world had failed for want of it. Prince Malcolm Khan once pointed out to him that the only reason why the East did not progress was because it had not the power of organisation. It had constantly been charged against women that they lacked that power. Such might have been the case in the past, but they had found that the men who sneered at them

when they ceased to be confined to what the critics called the domestic sphere organised against them, and so women had themselves taken to organisation. There was nothing unwomanly in combining for the interests of the sex and the welfare of society in general. At no distant date women would work through the franchise. All the talk about them being unable to sit on councils and so on was very shallow and rotten, and the House of Lords was only making a last, dying spurt in trying to prevent what the House of Commons permitted. Women had gifts which existed only in a lesser degree among men. What capacity they had as peacemakers, as the saviours of society standing between the oppressed and the oppressor! They were the leaders of forlorn hopes. Theirs was the faith which removed mountains. Not only were their great qualities recognised, they were claimed for the good of the human race in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. After pointing out that the Queen had always been averse to war, he declared that all good women were the same, their plea, "Spare our husbands, our brothers, our sons." After war, women's gift was the anodyne, administered in the hospital and the sickroom. "God bless all good women," said Oliver Wendell Holmes, "for to their kind hearts and tender hands we must come at last."

#### THE REV. ANNA HOWARD SHAW AT WEST- MINSTER CHAPEL.

##### B E S T R O N G .

The Rev. Anna Howard Shaw preached in Westminster Congregational Chapel. It is a spacious and handsome building, accommodating 3000 persons, and was built for the ministry of the late Rev. Samuel Martin, the church, however, as an organisation, dating from 1841. The present minister is the Rev. Richard Westrope, who came here in 1896. In the afternoon Mr Westrope had also thrown open the church to a woman speaker, and Miss Susan B. Anthony had addressed a meeting of men, the subject working out to woman suffrage. Both the afternoon and the evening gatherings were described as special services in connection with the International Congress of Women, members of which were admitted to both services.

In the evening the doors were opened early, and the time of waiting was beguiled by suitable music discoursed by a strong

band. A large number of members of the Congress were present, the best seats in front of the centre being given up to them. Mr Westrope conducted the first part of the service, with the exception of the reading of the Scriptures, which duty was performed by the Rev. Miss Shaw herself.

Miss Shaw announced her text from the chapter she had read—the first chapter of Joshua, “Be strong and of good courage ; neither be thou dismayed.” It was written, she said, over one of the great arches of the World’s Fair at Chicago that the greatest product of the world since the discovery of America was toleration in religion, and from the hearts of those who read the message arose a grateful Amen. But the world was not now so much agitated by the old theological problems as by the simpler problems of everyday living. There was the question, What was it to be a Christian? What was the difference between Christians and others? The disciples of Christ were to be living epistles, known and read of all men. We are answering, she said, not so much by our words, as by our deeds. Persons might be born in a Christian land, might be members of a Christian church, might believe the Creeds—the very strictest creed of orthodoxy—and yet not be a Christian. The Christian life was more than a creed, more than believing, more even than action. A Christian must believe, must feel, and he must act. There must be a combination of all permeating his life and his home. He must be a living embodiment of the spirit of the Gospel, even though he may never have heard the name of the Teacher who gave it to the world. Speaking then more particularly to women—though she was careful to explain that when she said men she meant both men and women, and lamented there was no word in the language to include both—she said it was of little use to come together in great convocations unless they carried back a larger spirit and a broader humanity than they brought with them. They ought to take her text home with them. There had been too much weakness preached to women. But when they caught the idea that there were but two classes, the strong-minded and the weak-minded, they preferred the former. The text meant strength of character. That was the lesson. Character she defined as—What we are. She believed in heredity, but also in the power of infinite goodness, and she found there a source of strength which would enable them to rise above heredity and environment. Goodness was always stronger than evil. Strength of character meant moral

courage, which was the rarest thing in the world. The old idea of patriotism led a man to lay down his life for his country. Now they had a higher conception. It was to live his life for his country, wholly, unselfishly ; to dare to stand by some unpalatable truth and to be faithful to righteousness. It was easy to spring into a chasm to save the nation, but it was hard to follow the great Teacher up to the cross. But strength of character meant also faith in God, in an over-ruling Providence, and faith in the right. Further, it meant uncompromising obedience to the truth. Under this head, she said, did they not all know a poet with a heart so divinely attuned that God had asked of him a song, a song which would find the hungry heart and give it cheer, and teach the sinful heart there was redemption, and yet he sunk his gift in the dust of his own lust, and the world mourned a lost song. She prayed that the men and women who were to be the reformers of the world and bring changed conditions of human life and the means of earning honourable bread would be of strong character.

#### DO NOT LOWER YOUR STANDARDS.

You may say the standards lifted by the women in the last week have been too high, that the world cannot grasp them. But how, asked Miss Shaw, is the world to be educated higher if the standards were lowered ? God's missionaries, God's fore-runners, God's reformers, could have no authority to lower the standards. A young standard-bearer in the Civil War had carried his flag too far, and the colonel called him back. "No," he replied. "Bring your men up to the standard." She believed in the future children would be well born and well reared, and men would recognise fully the rights of their brother men. In conclusion she bade her sisters in every land to work for their homes and their country, until by-and-by they entered the better country. In the course of a concluding prayer she besought the blessing of God the Father, God the Mother, and God the Great Teacher.

#### THE CHIEF RABBI AT ST JOHN'S WOOD SYNAGOGUE.

SATURDAY, JULY 1.

The Chief Rabbi, preaching on Saturday, July 1st, at the St John's Wood Synagogue, on the aim and ideals of the Women's

Congress, took his text from the lesson of the day (Numbers xxvii. v. 7), "The daughters of Zelophehad speak right: thou shalt surely give them a possession of an inheritance among their fathers' brethren, and thou shalt cause the inheritance of their fathers to pass unto them." He said that the position of those who considered the aims of the Congress unnecessary and mischievous was absolutely untenable in England, a country which, under the sway of a female sovereign, had attained a greatness and a prosperity superior to that of any empire in the world's history. Such argument could not be held by the denizen of a realm ruled by a woman, who, amid the crushing cares and responsibilities of government, had built up a home which elicited the admiration and reverence of civilised mankind. Women of sense and sensibility would no longer permit themselves to be condemned to

"A sort of a cage-bird life, born in a cage,  
Accounting that to leap from perch to perch  
Was act and joy enough for any bird."

They asked, as did the Hebrew daughters, "Give unto us a possession among the brethren of our father." They pleaded that, both in this country and on the Continent, they suffered from restrictions and disabilities. With respect to many of their pleas, such as the inequality of the wage standard, exclusion from certain professions, from guardianships of children and of the poor, from a wider participation in local administration, the Scriptural words might be applied: "The daughters of Zelophehad speak aright." But a lesson might be learnt from the maidens of old, who laboured not merely for their own well-being and the credit of their family, but for the honour, welfare and happiness of their sex, that not by noisy declamation, nor by extravagant demands, could they hope to gain their point, but by pleading their cause with gentle firmness and sweet reasonableness, and never discarding that dignified modesty and deep sense of piety which constituted woman's charm and strength.

## Devotional Meetings.

A SHORT devotional meeting was held each day at each of the 3 halls, St Martin's, Westminster, and the Church Hall, in a room set apart for the purpose, at 10 A.M., before the Congress opened. The meetings were conducted by different members of Congress belonging to different Churches.

In addition to these daily meetings arranged on behalf of the International Council by the President, a special devotional meeting was held on Thursday afternoon, June 29th, for the delegates, by the Committee of the World's Young Women's Christian Association. The following is a brief report of the gathering:—

#### FOR DELEGATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

The Committee of the World's Young Women's Christian Association, and a representative committee of ladies, among whom were Lady Victoria Buxton, Mrs Bannister, Mrs C. Hogg, Lady Loch, Mrs Pennefather and Miss Soulsby, feeling a desire to give an English Christian welcome to the delegates attending the International Congress of Women in London, June 26th—July 4th, invited them to a devotional meeting at Morley Hall on the Thursday in the middle of the Congress. The other religious meetings of the Congress were a service arranged by the National Union of Women Workers, and special sermons and daily prayer meetings in each hall before each session.

**Mlle. Monod** (Paris) led in prayer in her own language.

**Lady Portsmouth**, who presided, then explained the object of the meeting as follows:—

The real conveners of this meeting, to whose initiative it is due that one more has been added to the many gatherings of this busy week, are certain members of the Committee of Invitation, who could not bear that the one subject which all who have it at heart in any of its forms feel to be the most vitally important of all, should be the only one without a place on the programme of the great Congress in which women from the ends of the earth were to discuss innumerable aspects of social life. Since then devotional meetings in more immediate connection with the Congress have, I believe, been arranged, but this one being of a somewhat different character, and at an hour possibly more convenient to some, and affording an opportunity of introducing visitors to the headquarters of the great association which had offered it hospitality, it was not thought desirable to abandon it. The result shows, I think, that those responsible had gauged rightly the desire on the part of many delegates for such an opportunity of spiritual intercourse and refreshment.

On such an occasion one would willingly keep self in the background, but I must say a word of personal explanation.

When the Committee asked me to join them, and to preside this afternoon over a cosmopolitan gathering, it may have been in some of their minds that my husband's name is well known as one of those whose dearest object is the defence and preservation of the Protestant character of our National Church, an object in which he has my fullest sympathy, but I think they also regarded me as representing what I may call *Cosmopolitan Christianity*. Born and bred a member of the Society of Friends (a membership which I still retain and value), I was accustomed in childhood to attend, during our frequent absences from home, the services of the Scotch Presbyterians and of the Reformed Churches of the Continent, while latterly I have usually attended those of the Church of England. It was with extreme diffidence, I may almost say reluctance, that I accepted the invitation to preside this afternoon, but I felt that my peculiar religious associations and antecedents did perhaps constitute a call that it would be wrong to resist.

**Miss Clifford** was called upon. She called attention to the fact that God the Giver was the foundation fact about God, and that one needed to live much in the thought of God ; our first attitude must be therefore to *receive* from Him.

There are three ways in which He gives and three responses on our part.

1. God has made giving one of the chief laws of the world, and she illustrated this from some facts about the Indian soil and climate which yields three harvests in the year, yet the land is not dressed as in England ; scientists say that the atmosphere of India is for ever giving. The air gives to the soil, the soil gives to the plants, the plants in their turn give to the people, and the people give to the world. Finally the varied gifts return to the air.

2. God gives that we may become givers. It pauperises people only to receive ; it never enervates if we receive to give.

3. God chooses to give through us ; we who feel so cold and helpless are yet to become the medium through which God gives.

Our response to the gifts of God are (1) The conviction of the extreme value and worth of the lives we are called to save. (2) The response of sympathy. (3) The spirit of intercession.

**Adeline, Duchess of Bedford**, was next called upon, and she began by saying that the object of the meeting seemed to her to be, in the midst of discussing various important subjects, to give one another, in language of olden times, "a token" that should be

of permanent value when they separated. Two facts she said had been brought prominently forward during these busy days—the kinship of nations and the thirst for knowledge, and she dwelt beautifully on the verse that had been ringing in her mind as she thought of this acquisition of knowledge, “The light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” She closed the address with a call to silent prayer.

The Bishop of Sierra Leone then followed with words which went to the root of the matter, and showed how God as Giver was pre-eminently seen in giving *Himself* in Christ, reconciling us to Himself through the perfect Atonement wrought by Him on the Cross. It was the precious Blood of Christ having paid our penalty, and met our need, which enabled us to give our lives for others. *Receiving* from Him must precede our giving. His *first* call to us is *Come unto Me.*”

The meeting closed with the Benediction.

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## International Council of Women.

### INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS.

Mrs May Wright Sewall, 633 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A., *President*; the Countess of Aberdeen, Haddo House, Aberdeen, Scotland, *Vice-President*; Fräulein Helene Lange, Steglitzerstr 48, Berlin, Germany, *Treasurer*; Miss Teresa F. Wilson, 254 Lisgar Street, Ottawa, Canada, *Corresponding Secretary*; Mlle. Camille Vidart, 1 Place du Port, Geneva, Switzerland, *Recording Secretary*.

NOTE.—*The above General Officers, together with the Presidents of all National Councils, form the Executive Committee.*

Miss HARRIS SMITH, *Auditor of the International Council, Public Accountant, 13 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.*

### LIST OF FEDERATED NATIONAL COUNCILS OF WOMEN, WITH THEIR OFFICERS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, formed March 1888,  
federated July 1897.

*Honorary Presidents.*—Mrs Mary Lowe Dickinson, 230 West 59th Street, New York, U.S.A.; Mrs May Wright Sewall,

633 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Ind. *President*.—Mrs Fannie Humphreys Gaffney, 41 Riverside Drive, New York. *Vice-President*.—Mrs Maria Purdy Peck, Davenport, Iowa, U.S.A. *Corresponding Secretary*.—Mrs Kate Waller Barrett, 218 3rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. *Recording Secretaries*.—Rev. Anna Garlin Spencer, 1536 Westminster Street, Providence, R.I.; Mrs Emmeline B. Wells, Salt Lake City, Utah. *Treasurer*.—Mrs Hannah G. Solomon, 4406 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

CANADA, formed October 1893, federated July 1897.

*President*.—Lady Taylor, 49 Madison Avenue, Toronto. *Advisory President*.—The Countess of Aberdeen. *Honorary Vice-Presidents*.—The Wives of Lieutenant-Governors of Provinces. *Elected Vice-Presidents*.—Lady Laurier, Lady Thomson. *Vice-Presidents for the Provinces and for the North-West Territories*.—Nova Scotia—Mrs R. L. Borden, Halifax; New Brunswick—Lady Tilley, St John; Quebec—Mme. Thibandeau, Montreal; Ontario—Mrs Boomer, London; Manitoba—Mrs M' Ewen, Brandon; Assiniboia—Mrs Davin, Regina; Alberta—Mrs Lougheed, Calgary; British Columbia—Miss Perrin, Victoria. *Corresponding Secretary*.—Miss T. F. Wilson, 254 Lisgar Street, Ottawa. *Recording Secretary*.—Mrs Willoughby Cummings, 44 Dewson Street, Toronto. *Treasurer*.—Mrs Hoodless, East Court, Hamilton.

GERMANY, formed in 1894, federated July 1897.

*President*.—Fräulein Augusta Schmidt, Grassistrasse 33, Leipzig. *Vice-Presidents*.—Frau Anna Simson, Schweidnitzer Stadtgraben 16A, Breslau. Frau Marie Stritt, Seidnitzerplatz 1, Dresden. *Treasurer*.—Frau Betty Naue, Promenadenplatz 6, München. *Secretaries*.—Frau Hanna Bieber Boehm, Kaiser Wilhelmstrasse 39, Berlin; Fräulein Ika Freudenberg, Giselastrasse 18, München; Fräulein Helene V. Forster, Egydienplatz 35, Nurnberg; Fräulein Ottlie Hoffman, Dobben 284, Bremen; Frau Schwerin, An der Schleuse 13, Berlin; Fräulein Auguste Forster, Weinbergstr. 12, Cassell; Fräulein Helene Lange, Steglitzerstr. 48, Berlin.

SWEDEN, formed January 1896, federated July 1898.

*President*.—Fru A. Hierta-Retzius, 110 Drottninggatan, Stockholm. *Vice-President*.—Fröken Ellen Fries, Ph.D.,

Malmskilnadsgatan 39, Stockholm. *Recording Secretary.*—Fröken H. Andersson, Pipersgatan 20, Stockholm. *Corresponding Secretary.*—Fröken Ellen Whitlock, 4 Lill Jans Plan, Stockholm, Sweden. *Treasurer.*—Fröken Hilda Lundin, Tegnerlunden 12, Stockholm.

**GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND**, formed October 1897,  
federated July 1898.

*President.*—Hon. Mrs A. T. Lyttelton, Castle House, Petersfield. *Vice-Presidents.*—The Countess of Aberdeen, Haddo House, Aberdeen; Mrs S. A. Barnett, Warden's Lodge, Toynbee Hall, Whitechapel, E.; the Lady Battersea, Surrey House, 7 Marble Arch, W.; Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, Chenies, Rickmansworth; Mrs Benson, Tremans, Horsted Keynes, Sussex; Mrs Alfred Booth, 46 Ullet Road, Sefton Park, Liverpool; the Lady Frederick Cavendish, 21 Carlton House Terrace, S.W.; Miss Clifford, 2 Hill Side, Redland Green, Bristol; Miss Fanny L. Calder, 49 Canning Street, Liverpool; Mrs Creighton, The Palace, Fulham, S.W.; Mrs Henry Fawcett, 2 Gower Street, W.C.; Head Deaconess Gilmore, The Sisters, North Side, Clapham Common, S.W.; Mrs E. Goodeve, Drinagh, Stoke Bishop, Bristol; Hon. Emily Kinnaird, 115 Mount Street, W.; the Lady Knightley, of Fawsley, Fawsley Park, Daventry; the Countess of Meath, Lancaster Gate, W.; Mrs Mirlees, Redlands, Kelvinside, Glasgow; Mother Emma, St Andrews Home, Portsmouth; the Lady Laura Riddings, Thurgarton Priory, Southwell, Notts; Mrs Henry Sidgwick, Newnham College, Cambridge. *Secretary.*—Miss Janes—Office, 59 Berners Street, Oxford Street, W. *Treasurer.*—Mrs George Cadbury, Northfield Manor, near Birmingham.

**DENMARK**, formed March 1899, federated March 1899.

*President.*—Fröken Ida Falbe Hansen, 1 Studiestraße, Copenhagen. *Treasurer.*—Fru Professor Axelline Lund, Copenhagen. *Recording Secretary.*—Fröken Eline Hansen, Copenhagen. *Corresponding Secretary.*—Fru Norrie, Congensgade 49, Copenhagen.

**NEW SOUTH WALES**, formed July 1896, federated March 1899.

*President.*—Viscountess Hampden, 3 Belgrave Place, London, S.W. *Vice-President.*—Lady Renwick, Sydney. *Treasurer.*—Miss Rose Scott, Lynton, Point Piper Road, Sydney. *Cor-*

*responding Secretary.*—Mrs Dora E. Armitage, 114 Pitt Street, Sydney.

HOLLAND, formed March 1899, federated March 1899.

*President.*—Mme. Klerck van Hogendorp, 11 Alexanderstraat, The Hague. *Vice-President.*—Mme. Rutgers-Hoitsema, 52 Haringvlet, Rotterdam. *Treasurer.*—Mlle. Drucker, Sarphatipark 61, Amsterdam. *Corresponding Secretary.*—Mlle. Martina Kramers, 16 Kortenaerstraat, Rotterdam. *Recording Secretary.*—Mlle Kuenen.

NEW ZEALAND, formed April 1896, federated May 1899.

*President.*—Mrs Daldy, Hepburn Street, Auckland. *Vice-President.*—Mrs Shepherd, Box 209, Post Office, Christchurch. *Treasurer.*—Mrs Williamson, Wanganui. *Recording Secretary.*—Miss Garstin. *Corresponding Secretary.*—Mrs Sievwright, Gisborne.

TASMANIA, formed May 1899, federated June 1899.

*President.*—Lady Gormanstown. *Vice-Presidents.*—Mrs Dodds, Lady Braddon. *Secretary.*—Mrs M'Gregor. *Treasurer.*—Mrs Morton.

#### HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS.

FINLAND, appointed at Chicago, 1893.

Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg, Helsingfors, Finland.

BELGIUM, appointed at Chicago, 1893.

Mlle. Marie Popelin, LL.D., 12 Place des Barricades, Brussels.

SWITZERLAND, appointed July 1897.

Mlle. Camille Vidart, 8 Rue de l'Hotel de Ville, Geneva.

ITALY, appointed July 1898.

Countessa Taverna, Torno Lago di Como, Rome.

RUSSIA, appointed March 1899.

H. E. Mme. Anne de Philosofoff, Fontanka 28, St Petersburg.

**AUSTRIA**, appointed March 1899.

**Frau Marianne Hainisch**, 111 Marokkanergasse, Vienna.

**FRANCE**, appointed May 1899.

**Mme. Bogelot**, 4 Rue Perrault, Paris; **Mlle. Sarah Monod** (*Representative*), 95 Rue Reuilly, Paris.

**NORWAY**, appointed May 1899.

**Frøken Gina Krog**, 31 Ed. Stormsgade, Christiana.

**VICTORIA**, appointed May 1889.

**Janet, Lady Clarke**.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**, appointed May 1899.

**Mrs Cockburn**, 2 Sunderland Terrace, Westbourne Gardens, London, N.W.

**WEST AUSTRALIA**.

**Mrs Wittenoom**, 7 Cumberland House, High Street, Kensington, London, S.W.

**QUEENSLAND**.

**CAPE COLONY**, appointed June 1899.

**Mrs Stewart of Lovedale**, **Mrs Nixon** (*Representative*).

**ARGENTINE REPUBLIC**, appointed May 1899.

**Dr Cecilia Grierson**, Patagones 672, Buenos Ayres, Argentina.

**PALESTINE**, appointed March 1899.

**CHINA**, appointed June 1899.

**Mme. Shen**, Chinese Legation, 49 Portland Place, London, W.

**PERSIA**.

**Mrs James Nielson Hamilton**, U.S.A. Consulate, Persia.

**PATRONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL.**

Mr James Nielson Hamilton, U.S.A. ; Mrs Sanford, Canada ;  
Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg, Finland ; Mrs Allison Bybee,  
U.S.A. ; Mr MacLeine, U.S.A.

**STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.**

(Consisting of the five General Officers, and of one representative from each federated National Council.)

I.—*Finance Committee.*

II.—*International Arbitration.*—Chairman.—Countess of Aberdeen ; Secretary.—Baroness Suttner.

III.—*Press Committee.*—To devise methods of communication by the International Council and between National Councils ; to draw up a list of suitable journals throughout the world ; to approach editors with a view of securing introduction of International Council news in their papers.

IV.—*On Laws affecting the Domestic Relations.*—Chairman to be nominated by German Council.

**CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.**

**PREAMBLE.**

We, women of all Nations, sincerely believing that the best good of humanity will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, and that an organised movement of women will best conserve the highest good of the family and of the State, do hereby band ourselves in a confederation of workers to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom and law.

[THE GOLDEN RULE.—*Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you.*]

That we may more successfully prosecute the work, we adopt the following

## CONSTITUTION.

### ARTICLE I.

#### *Name.*

1. The federation shall be called the International Council of Women.

#### *Objects of the International Council.*

- (a) To provide a means of communication between women's organisations in all countries.
- (b) To provide opportunities for women to meet together from all parts of the world to confer upon questions relating to the welfare of the commonwealth and the family.

### ARTICLE II.

#### *General Policy.*

1. This International Council is organised in the interests of no one propaganda, and has no power over its members beyond that of suggestion and sympathy; therefore, no National Council voting to become a member of the International Council shall render itself liable to be interfered with in respect to its complete organic unity, independence or methods of work, or shall be committed to any principle or method of any other Council, or to any utterance or act of this International Council, beyond compliance with the terms of this Constitution.

### ARTICLE III.

#### *Officers.*

1. The Officers shall be a President, a Vice-President-at-Large, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. Each President of a National Council shall be an *ex officio* Vice-President of the International Council.
2. These Officers shall be elected at the Quinquennial Meeting, and no officer shall occupy the office of President for two consecutive terms.
3. The five general officers, with the Presidents of Federated National Councils, shall constitute an Executive Committee, of

which two-thirds of the whole number shall make a quorum, to control and provide for the general interests of the International Council.

4. In all countries where a National Council is not already organised or federated with the International Council, some woman shall be elected to represent her country as honorary Vice-President of that country in the International Council until such time as a National Council shall be fully organised and eligible for membership in the International Council. All such Honorary Vice-Presidents may be invited to attend the meetings of the Executive, but shall have no vote.

#### ARTICLE IV.

##### *Members.*

Any National Council formed of National Societies, of Local Councils, and Unions of representative Societies and Institutions, provided that their constitution be in harmony with the basis of the constitution of the International Council, may become a member of the International Council with the approval of the Executive, and by the payment of £20 (100 dollars) every five years. This sum shall be paid into the Treasury of the International Council in yearly instalments.

All National Councils shall, on application for federation, send a copy of their constitution and rules, and a copy of the resolution by which the application for federation was passed by the Council. And if, at any time, said constitution and rules are altered, a copy of the alteration shall be sent to the Corresponding Secretary.

Any person whose name is accepted by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Council of her own nation, where one exists, may become a Patron of this Council upon the payment of £20 (100 dollars).

#### ARTICLE V.

##### *Meetings.*

1. The International Council shall hold quinquennial meetings.

2. The Committee of Arrangements shall be formed of the Executive Committee of the International Council, and one Delegate from each federated National Council.

3. The President and two Delegates from every federated National Council, together with the General Officers, shall alone have the right to vote at the meetings of the International Council. These Officers and Delegates, when unable to be present, may vote by proxy. The proxy of a General Officer must be a member of a federated National Council which shall have approved of her appointment. The proxy of a President or Delegate must be a member of the Council which she is appointed to represent.

4. All members of Council, that is, all ordinary members of federated National Councils, may be invited to attend the meetings of Council, but may not take part in the proceedings without special invitation.

5. All business to be brought before the International Council must first be submitted to the Executive Committee as a notice of motion.

#### ARTICLE VI.

This Constitution may be altered or amended by a majority vote of the Council at any quinquennial meeting, printed notice thereof having been sent to each member of the Executive Committee at least three months prior to such meeting.

### STANDING ORDERS FOR THE USE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

*(Adopted at the Meeting of Executive, 9th July 1897, and  
Amended at the Meeting of Executive, July 1899.)*

#### I. MEETINGS.

1. The Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be convened by the President, or Acting President, at such time and place as may seem to her desirable for the efficient conduct of the work of the Council. Not less than four months' notice shall be given to each member unless most urgent business compels the Committee being called together by the President, or Acting

President, at such notice as will allow of communication with each National Council.

2. Special Meetings may be called by any three members of the Executive, requesting the President in writing to convene a Meeting. Four months' notice must be given in such cases, and the place of meeting left to the option of the President. The names of the three members requesting the meeting shall be mentioned in the notice summoning the meeting.

3. The notice calling the Executive shall contain as full a statement of the agenda as possible, and also the terms of any resolution of which notice has been given in sufficient time so to do.

4. At the ordinary meeting of the Executive Committee the order of business shall be—

Reading, correction and approval of the minutes of last meeting.

Correspondence.

Roll Call,

Remarks by the President.

Report of Corresponding Secretary.

Report of Treasurer.

Reports from Sub-Committees (if any).

Reports from National Councils (if desired).

Any business carried over from last meeting.

New business.

5. If, on account of the members of the Executive residing at such wide distances apart, and being therefore unable to meet except occasionally, it be deemed desirable by the President to take the votes of the Executive Committee in writing, such a vote shall be valid. In such cases, the Corresponding Secretary shall, on the instructions of the President, send out a memorandum to each member of the Executive, marked, "For the use of the Executive only," giving the resolution or other communication to be voted on, and any reasons that may have been stated on either side for or against. If the communication refers to a matter on which the National Councils should be consulted, or should take action, the opinion of the members of the Executive shall first be obtained as to what steps to take, or as to the best way of taking action, before the subject is brought before the National Councils.

6. If a two-thirds majority of the International Executive

deem any resolution sent up by the National Councils unsuitable or inadvisable for presentation to the Council, it shall not be placed on the agenda.

7. When the President of any National Council is unable to attend a meeting of the Executive, it shall be competent to the Executive Committee of such National Council to appoint a substitute to attend in her place, or to empower their President to appoint a substitute, provided that such substitute be a member of a National Council.

## II. RULES OF ORDER.

8. The President, or person occupying the Chair, shall have a casting vote in case of a tie, but shall not otherwise vote as a member.

9. Every member of the Executive Committee when speaking shall address the Chair only.

10. Every notice of motion for the agenda shall be in writing, and shall be signed either by a member of the Executive, or by the Secretary of the National Council sending it in.

11. All correspondence received since last meeting shall be upon the table, filed according to subject and date. Such general correspondence as the Executive desire to hear shall be read by the Corresponding Secretary, before each subject comes on for discussion, and any communication relating thereto, which may be considered important, shall be read to the meeting. Any member shall be entitled to call for the reading of other communications.

12. Any part of the regular business of a meeting may be taken up out of its regular order, or any special business may be taken without notice, only when a motion of urgency has been passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present.

13. All motions, or amendments other than mere formal ones, shall be reduced to writing.

14. Motions to rescind resolutions passed within twelve months, and motions to the same effect as motions negatived within the previous twelve months must be passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present.

15. An attendance book shall be kept and signed by each member present at any Executive Committee or Sub-Committee Meeting; also a memorandum of notes sent by absent members

and a summary of attendances shall be kept by the Recording Secretary.

16. The Recording Secretary shall prepare a summary of the minutes, or a copy of the minutes themselves to be sent to each absent member. The minutes shall be read, corrected and approved at the close of each session.

17. The Standing Orders shall not be suspended unless by a unanimous vote.

18. All correspondence received by the Corresponding Secretary, or copies thereof, shall be submitted to the President, and a letter book containing copies of all letters sent out by the Secretary shall be kept and produced, if desired, by the Executive.

19. The federation of National Councils shall be accepted on the following terms:—

- (1.) Receipt of formal letter enclosing copy of resolution passed at meeting federating National Council.
- (2.) A copy of the Constitution adopted.
- (3.) Proof that the Council applying for federation has a right to call itself National in a representative sense.
- (4.) Approval of the Executive Committee expressed by resolution.
- (5.) Payment of Federation Fee in annual instalments. On receipt of the minutes containing the resolution whereby the National Council record their desire to federate with the International Council, and of the Constitution or Rules of the National Council, the resolution can be passed accepting the federation, and the Treasurer shall then apply for the Federation Fee, and, at a subsequent meeting, report its receipt to the Executive.

20. The above Standing Orders shall be observed by Sub-Committees so far as they are applicable.

STANDING ORDERS  
FOR THE USE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

I. MEETINGS.

1. The Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council shall be held at such time and place as the International Executive

may select, subject to the decision of the previous Quinquennial Meeting.

2. The Quinquennial Session of the International Council shall sit for three days, or longer, as may be required.

3. Special meetings of the International Council for urgent business may be convened by the President at her own discretion, or at the urgent request, in writing, of two-fifths of the International Executive. Such notice shall be given as will allow of communication with each National Council.

4. Conferences, in connection with the Quinquennial Meeting, or at any other time, may be held as may seem advisable to the Executive.

5. At the meetings of the International Council the Minute Book of the International Executive Committee shall be on the Council table for inspection by the members of the International Council.

6. The order of business at the meetings of the International Council shall be as follows :—

- (1.) Minutes of previous meeting.
- (2.) Correspondence.
- (3.) Roll Call.
- (4.) Opening Remarks by the President.
- (5.) Appointment of members of the International Council as Returning Officers and Tellers for the Ballot Voting.
- (6.) Election of Officers.
- (7.) Greetings from Fraternal Delegates.
- (8.) Quinquennial Report and Financial Statement.
- (9.) Reports from Federated National Councils.
- (10.) Appointment of Auditors.
- (11.) Amendments to Rules and Standing Orders (if any).
- (12.) Motions of which due notice has been given to the International Executive Committee, and by them to each federated National Council, and Amendments relevant to the motions before the meeting.
- (13.) Other business.

7. Delegates shall occupy seats allotted, by previous arrangement or ballot of the International Executive Committee, to the representatives of Federated National Councils. Each seat shall be numbered to correspond with the number on the ticket of the delegate to whom it is allotted.

8. Secretaries of Federated National Councils are required to send a copy of the minute of Committee or Council appointing

delegates, or their substitutes in the event of their inability to attend, to the Corresponding Secretary a full month before the Quinquennial Council Meeting, and also to provide each delegate or substitute with a letter of introduction.

9. The responsibility for the appointment and instruction of delegates rests solely with the bodies appointing, and delegates are required to act in strict accordance with the instructions of the Federated National Councils which they represent, and on points which may incidentally arise, as far as they can judge, in accordance with the spirit of that organisation, and not as individuals.

Federated National Councils shall be free to give liberty to their delegates to vote according to their own convictions on any matter on which the National Councils consider that they have not sufficient information, and where they feel that discussion might materially alter the point of view.

10. A preliminary agenda for the Quinquennial Council shall be sent out to each Federated National Council ten months before the Quinquennial Meeting, and shall be laid before each such body for discussion in order that notice of amendment, alteration or withdrawal, if desired, may be sent back to the International Executive four months after its receipt. The final agenda, with all amendments, shall be received by each Federated National Council three months before the Quinquennial Meeting.

11. Resolutions for the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council and suggestions for Conferences can be submitted to the International Executive for inclusion on the preliminary agenda by Federated National Councils, by the Executive, and by the Officers of the same, but not by individual members.

12. Resolutions from Federated National Councils must be received by the Corresponding Secretary fourteen months before the Quinquennial Meeting, or at such time as may be fixed by the President for the convenience of the work of the International Council, in order that they may be placed on the preliminary agenda and be sent out for the consideration and amendment of the Federated National Councils.

13. Amendments to the resolutions can be sent in by the same parties who can send in resolutions, when the preliminary agenda is returned. No resolutions can be proposed except purely verbal ones during the actual meeting of the International Council.

14. Amendments must be relevant to the subject matter of the original motion.

15. If a two-thirds majority of the International Executive deem any resolution or amendment sent up by the Federated National Councils unsuitable or inadvisable for presentation to the International Council, it shall not be placed on the agenda.

16. All invitations from Federated National Councils to the International Council to hold the Quinquennial Meeting in their respective countries shall be received by the Corresponding Secretary three months previous to the Quinquennial Meeting preceding that for which the invitation is extended, in order that the International Executive Committee may consider the matter and decide upon a recommendation which shall be laid before the International Council, and voted upon.

## II. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

17. The President, or, in her absence, the elected Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings of the International Council and its Executive. She shall take a general supervision of all its work, and keep in touch with the work of the National Councils throughout the world, and shall do all in her power to promote the formation of new National Councils.

18. The elected Vice-President of the International Council shall act in the absence of the President, or the Executive shall appoint an acting President.

19. The President of a Federated National Council, in the absence of the President, or of the elected Vice-President of the International Council, shall preside at any Special Meetings of the Council held in her country, and shall promote the work of the International Council so far as possible.

20. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all correspondence of the International Council, shall present a report at the Quinquennial Meeting, shall keep a complete roll of all Federated National Councils, and shall prepare an agenda of business for all meetings of the International Council and its Executive.

21. The Recording Secretary shall keep careful minutes of the proceedings of meetings of the International Council and of the Executive Committee of the same.

22. The Treasurer shall receive all fees from Federated National Councils, and all subscriptions and donations from Patrons and others. She shall pay all accounts after they are

duly initialled by the President, and shall have her books audited by an Auditor appointed by the International Council, before presenting her Quinquennial Report. All Subscriptions and fees shall be acknowledged by official receipt, signed by the Treasurer.

23. Officers may record their votes by proxy at the meetings of the International Council, if unable to be present, and if they have given full written instructions to the person representing them as to the votes to be given.

### III.—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

24. Nomination papers for the officers of the International Council shall be sent out by the International Executive to each Federated National Council twelve months before the Quinquennial Meeting, and shall be returned by them to the Corresponding Secretary, by a date which she will indicate, filled in, in accordance with the instructions of each Federated National Council, given through a Public Meeting of the same, or through its Executive, if especially empowered in this regard. All nominations must be made with the consent of those nominated. Nominations for the Officers of the International Council shall be made by Federated National Councils, and by the Executive Committee of the International Council, but not by individual members of the same.

25. The election of Officers shall be by ballot. The ballot papers will be supplied to each member of the International Council at a polling booth within the precincts of the hall, and under the charge of the returning officers. The voters shall be required to mark their papers, when they receive them, inside the polling booth, and to deposit them at once in one of the sealed ballot boxes that shall be provided for that purpose. No member of the International Council shall receive a second ballot paper, except from the returning officers in exchange for the one previously given.

26. In the case of the resignation or death of an officer during her term of office, a successor shall be elected by the International Executive to serve during the remainder of such term.

### IV.—RULES OF ORDER.

27. Every person when speaking shall stand and shall address the Chair.

28. Every motion shall be proposed, or, in other words, read by the presiding officer before it is open to debate or amendment. Only two amendments shall be proposed at one time to a motion or question. In other words, there shall be only three questions at one time before the International Council ; the main motion, an amendment, and an amendment thereto. But when an amendment to the amendment is disposed of, another amendment can be proposed, provided it is not one similar to that already voted on. But a motion for the adjournment of the International Council or of the debate is always in order under such circumstances.

29. Motions and amendments shall be voted on in the reverse order to that in which they are submitted, the last amendment being thus voted on first.

30. All special motions shall be in writing, and shall be seconded before being put from the Chair, but motions for adjournment of Council or of debate, or for the previous question or mere routine business, need not be written.

31. A motion that is not seconded may not be proposed from the Chair, and no entry thereof shall be made in the minutes.

32. A motion or an amendment may be withdrawn with the consent of the whole International Council present, or, in other words, without a negative voice.

33. No question or motion can be regularly offered if it is substantially the same as one on which the judgment of the International Council has already been expressed during that meeting of the Council.

34. Any member may require the question under discussion to be read at any time of the debate, but not so as to interrupt a speaker.

35. A motion to adjourn is always in order, and shall be voted on without debate, when there is a question under consideration ; when there is no such question under discussion, and the motion for adjournment is a substantive or main motion, a debate thereon is permissible, but it must be confined to the question of adjournment. A motion to adjourn cannot be amended, and must be simply :—“That the International Council be now adjourned,” or “That the debate be now adjourned.” A motion “That the International Council do adjourn to a particular day or hour,” or “That a debate be adjourned to a particular day or hour,” is always amendable with respect to day or hour.

36. The President may at any time take the opinion of the

International Council as to the length of time to be allowed for the discussion of any motion, and shall then, at her own discretion, limit the time for each speaker.

37. The President of the International Council may, at the close of any speech, propose without debate, "That the question be now put"; and if the motion be seconded and carried by a majority, the original resolution as amended shall be at once put without debate.

38. When a debate on a question is concluded, the Presiding Officer shall proceed to put the question. If the question has not been heard she shall read it again to the meeting. Having read the question on which the decision of the meeting is to be first given, she shall take the sense of the members by saying: "Those who are in favour of the question or amendment shall say aye." "Those who are of the contrary opinion shall say no." When the supporters or opponents of the question have given their voices for and against the same, the Presiding Officer shall say, "I think the ayes have it," or "I think the noes have it," or "I cannot decide." Any member of the International Council feeling a doubt as to the correctness of the decision may call for a division.

39. The Secretary or Recording Officer shall make no entry of a motion or proposed resolution except it is stated from the Chair.

40. The Presiding Officer shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the International Council, and in explaining a point of order or procedure, she shall state the rule or authority applicable to the case.

41. No member shall speak twice to a motion or question, except in explanation of a material part of her speech in which she may have been misconceived, but then she shall not introduce new matter. A member who has spoken to a motion may speak again when a new question or an amendment is proposed to the motion. A reply shall be allowed only to the mover of a main or substantive motion.

42. When two or more members rise to speak, the Presiding Officer shall call upon the member who, in her opinion, first rose in her place; and should more than one member rise at once, the Presiding Officer shall determine who is entitled to the floor.

43. No member shall speak to any question after the same has been fully put by the Presiding Officer.

44. On the general business of the International Council, the

sense of the delegates shall be taken in the usual Parliamentary method of asking for ayes and noes ; in cases where a division is called for, the vote shall be taken by calling over the roll of affiliated bodies, when the vote of each such body shall be given by the delegate or delegates present.

45. The President, or person occupying the Chair, shall have a casting vote when there is a tie, but shall not otherwise vote as a member of the International Council.

46. In the event of the full number of delegates from any National Council not being able to attend, the full number of votes to which each such body is entitled shall be given by such delegate or delegates as are present on all questions regarding which they have received definite instructions from their respective National Councils.

47. The Business Meetings of the International Council shall be open only to its official reporters, and an official report of the proceedings shall be made by the authority of the International Executive Committee, and forwarded to the General Officers, to the Secretary of each Federated National Council, and also to each Honorary Vice-President.

48. The International Executive shall be authorised to appoint its officers as a Sub-Executive to conduct routine business, and in the case of emergency, the President shall be authorised to decide matters of urgency on behalf of the International Council.

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#### GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN.

**EDITOR'S NOTE.**—*We think it may be of interest, and possibly of some use, to those organising future Congresses, to reprint these items of general information precisely as they appeared on the Handbook.*

**Tickets.**—Members' tickets, admitting to all Sectional Meetings (price 7/6), are on sale during the Congress, on and after Monday afternoon, June 26th, at the Inquiry Room, Westminster Town Hall.

Tickets for members of National Councils (price 5s.) will be issued at the Council Office up to 1 p.m. on Monday, June 26th.

The public will be admitted to the Sectional Meetings, if there is room, on the payment of 1s. each at the door.

Places will be reserved for members of Congress up to five minutes before the hour of meeting, after which the stewards are instructed to fill up vacant seats.

Admission to the evening meetings on temperance and on the ethics of wage earning will be free. A certain number of reserved seats will be retained for the international delegates and invited speakers.

Special tickets may be applied for by members of societies affiliated to National Councils, admitting them to the meetings of the International Council. These may be procured at the Inquiry Room, at the Westminster Town Hall.

Application for press tickets should be made through editors, or through members of the Press Committee.

*Registration of Members of Congress.*—A register of all members of Congress who have applied for tickets before the 1st of June, with their London addresses, is found in the Handbook. A supplementary list containing later applications will be issued during the Congress.

*Headquarters.*—The headquarters of the International Council during the Congress week are at the Westminster Town Hall. Sectional meetings also are held at St Martin's Town Hall, about ten minutes' walk distant, and at the Convocation Hall of Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster.

*Book Rooms* are provided at each place of meeting, where literature bearing on the subjects discussed at the Congress will be sold or given away.

Educational Section at Westminster Town Hall.

Legislative and Industrial and Political Sections at St Martin's Town Hall.

Social Section at Church House.

None but official literature may be distributed at the doors or in the Halls.

*Handbooks* are on sale at tables provided at the entrance of each place of meeting (price 6d). Here will also be sold a "Portrait Album of Who's Who at the International Congress of Women," giving some short biographical account of most of those connected with the Congress. This is published by *The Gentlewoman*, Arundel Street, Strand (price 6d).

*The Inquiry Office* is on the ground floor of the Westminster Town Hall, where all official information connected with the

Congress can be obtained; tickets procured (invitation and Congress); interpreters to be found, etc.

*International Council Office*.—A room has been set apart at the Westminster Town Hall for the use of the International Council.

Some of the International Officers, and others fully acquainted with the working and aims of the Council, will endeavour to be in the office as much as possible to answer inquiries and give information about the Council to officers and delegates from National Councils.

*Post Office*.—An official from the Post Office will be in attendance at the post office in the ground floor from 9.30 to 6 every day to distribute letters arriving for members of Congress, to sell stamps, etc. Messenger boys can be rung up at the sender's expense for telegrams. The South-Western District Office is within a few minutes' walk.

*Rest Rooms* are provided at the Westminster and St Martin's Town Hall for members of Congress.

*A Writing Room* is provided for the convenience of members of Congress at the Westminster Town Hall. It is particularly requested that silence may be maintained in this room. Room No. 13 is available as a meeting place, with the exception of certain days and hours, which will be notified by a ticket on the door.

*Press Rooms* are provided at each place of meeting for the use of journalists reporting the meetings.

*Devotional Meetings*.—Short devotional meetings are held before the commencement of each day's proceedings, for those who wish to attend them, at the Convocation Hall of Church House; in the small hall, No. 13 at the Westminster Town Hall, and in the rest room at St Martin's Town Hall. These meetings will be held at 10 a.m. each morning, and will be conducted by different members of Congress.

*Stewards*.—There will be two head stewards at each place of meeting, and a large number of other stewards who will be known by the yellow and white pompons which they wear. Officers, members of council and members of committee, also wear distinguishing badges.

#### RULES TO BE OBSERVED AT ALL MEETINGS OF CONGRESS.

1. That the Standing Orders of the International Council, as far as they apply, shall be in force during the Congress.
2. That Chairmen and invited speakers, whether readers of

papers or leaders of discussion, adhere strictly to the time allotted to them.

3. That at a time stipulated on the programme the meeting shall be open to free discussion.

4. That members of Congress desirous of speaking shall send up their name in writing, stating definitely the subject they desire to speak on, by one of the stewards in attendance, and await the call of the Chairman.

5. That in the discussion the time allowed to each speaker shall be about five minutes, more or less, according to the discretion of the Chairman.

6. That speakers desiring to take part in the free discussion shall address the meeting from the platform only. Questions may be asked and corrections made from the body of the hall.

7. All speakers shall address *the Chair only*, confine themselves strictly to the subject under discussion, and cease when the time is called.

8. That the Chairman's bell shall give warning one minute before the allotted time, and will sound again at the conclusion.

9. That the decision of the Chair shall be final.

10. That no resolutions be passed at any Sectional Meeting unless they have first been submitted to the International Council or Executive.

NOTE.—*Copies of the Handbook in circulation during the sittings of Congress can still be had, by those wishing to have a few copies, on application to the Countess of Aberdeen, Haddo House, Aberdeen, with stamps for postage.*



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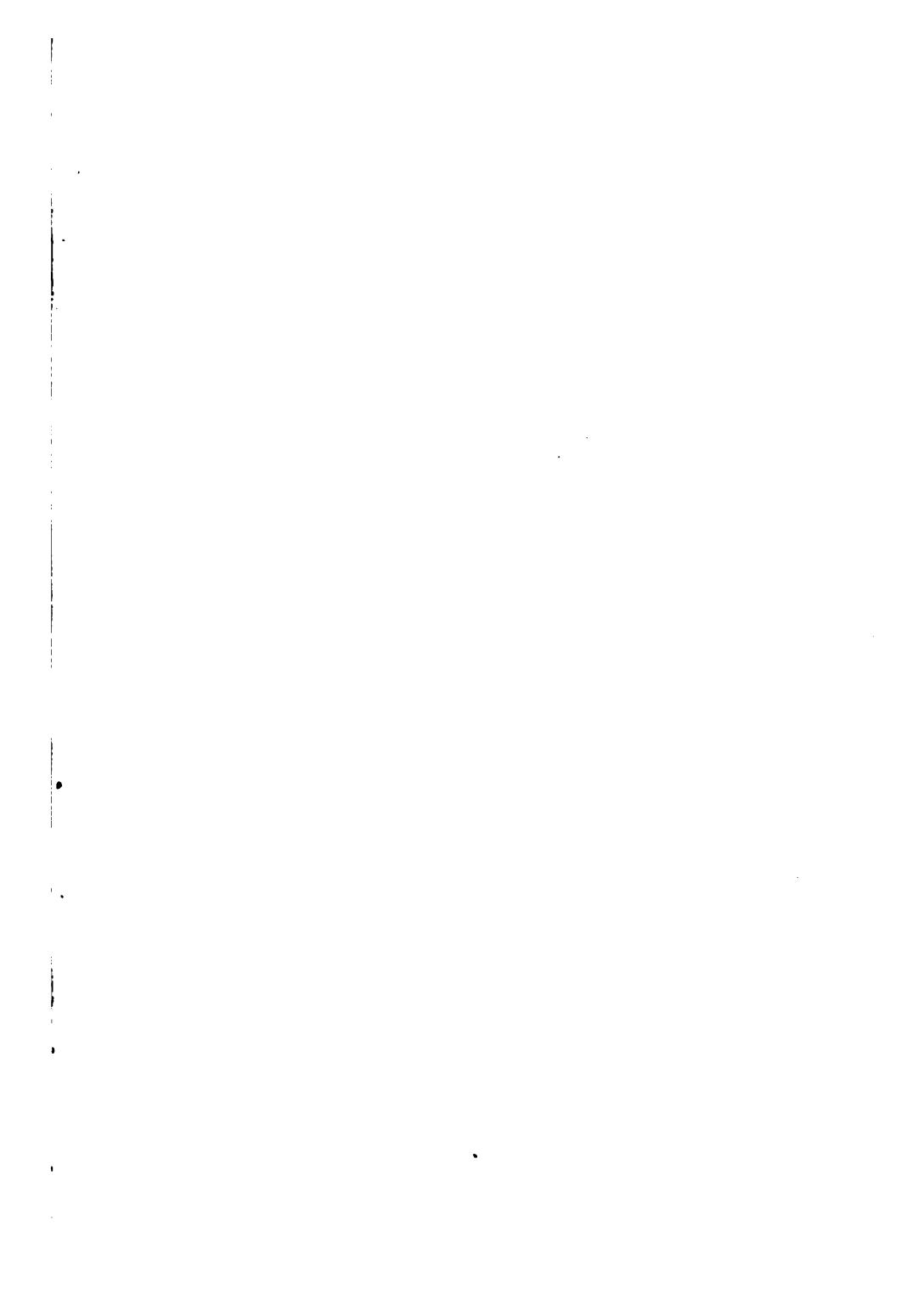
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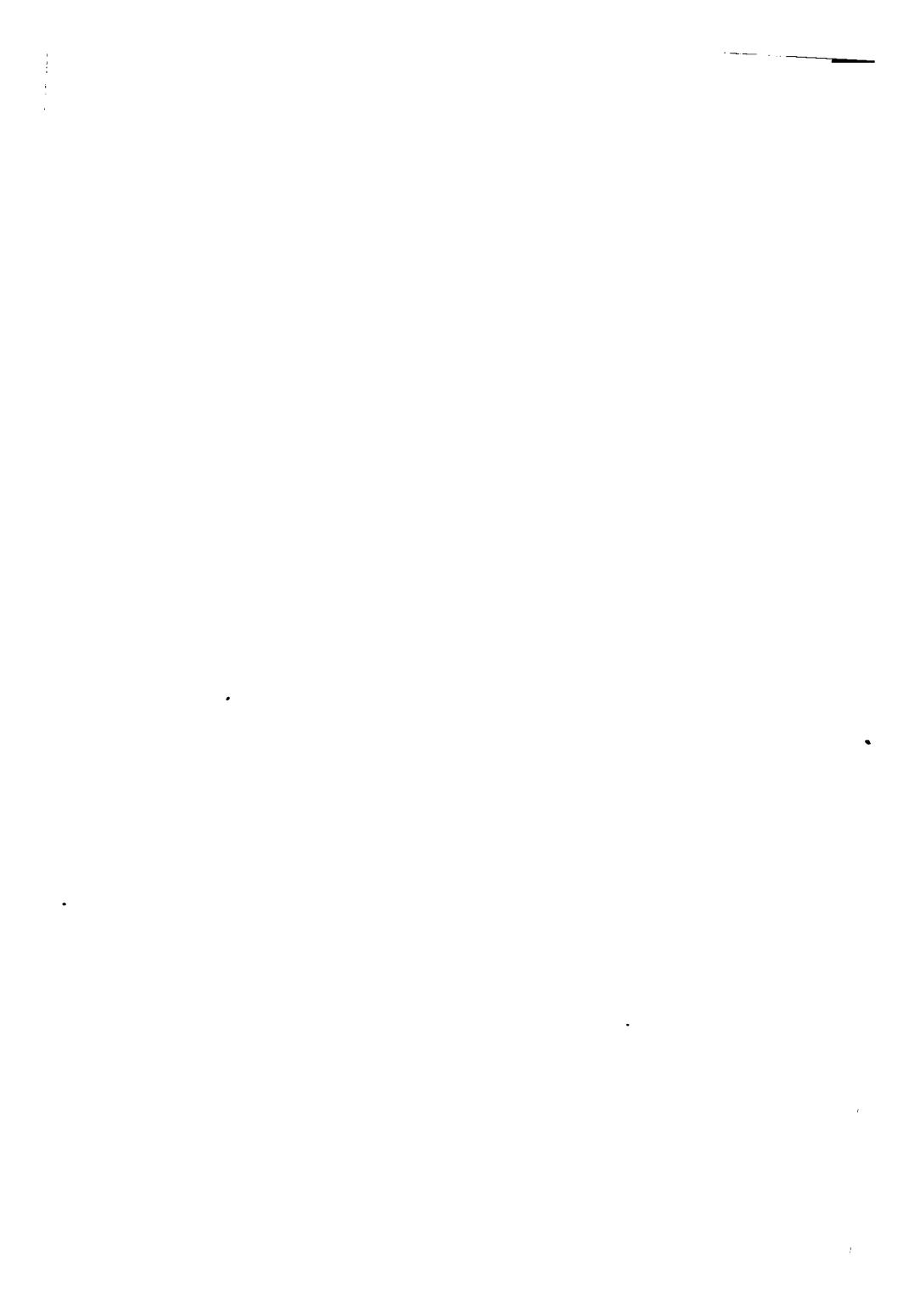
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